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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

U. S. DEPT. OF
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April 15 and 16, 1968

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H O L I D A Y I N N

S O U T H B U R L I N G T O N

VERMONT



REPORT OF 1968 STATE ASCS CONFERENCE

Vermont State and County Committeemen, County Office Managers,
County Agents, and Guests

Held at Holiday Inn, South Burlington, Vermont
April 15 and 16, 1968

Foreword

This report presents the highlights of the talks and actions taken at the 1968 State ASCS Conference. This was our 30th conference of county committeemen and county office managers. It was held for the purpose of reviewing present programs and discussing changes necessary to meet current and anticipated future agricultural conditions. Ways and means of doing a better job for Vermont in the future were discussed by speakers and those attending the conference.

The highlight of this year's conference was the presence of Senator and Mrs. George D. Aiken at the conference banquet where he was the guest speaker. The group was honored that Vermont's Senior Senator took time during the Congressional Easter Recess to attend the banquet. His talk gave us all a better understanding of the problems faced by agriculture, not only in Vermont, but in the Nation, as well as an insight into the many problems faced by Congress and our National leaders.

The group was also honored that Congressman Robert T. Stafford found time in his busy schedule to attend the afternoon session the first day and give them a brief report of his views on recent and future activities of Congress.

All conference sessions and the banquet were well attended by county committeemen, county office managers, and personnel representing the various cooperating agencies.

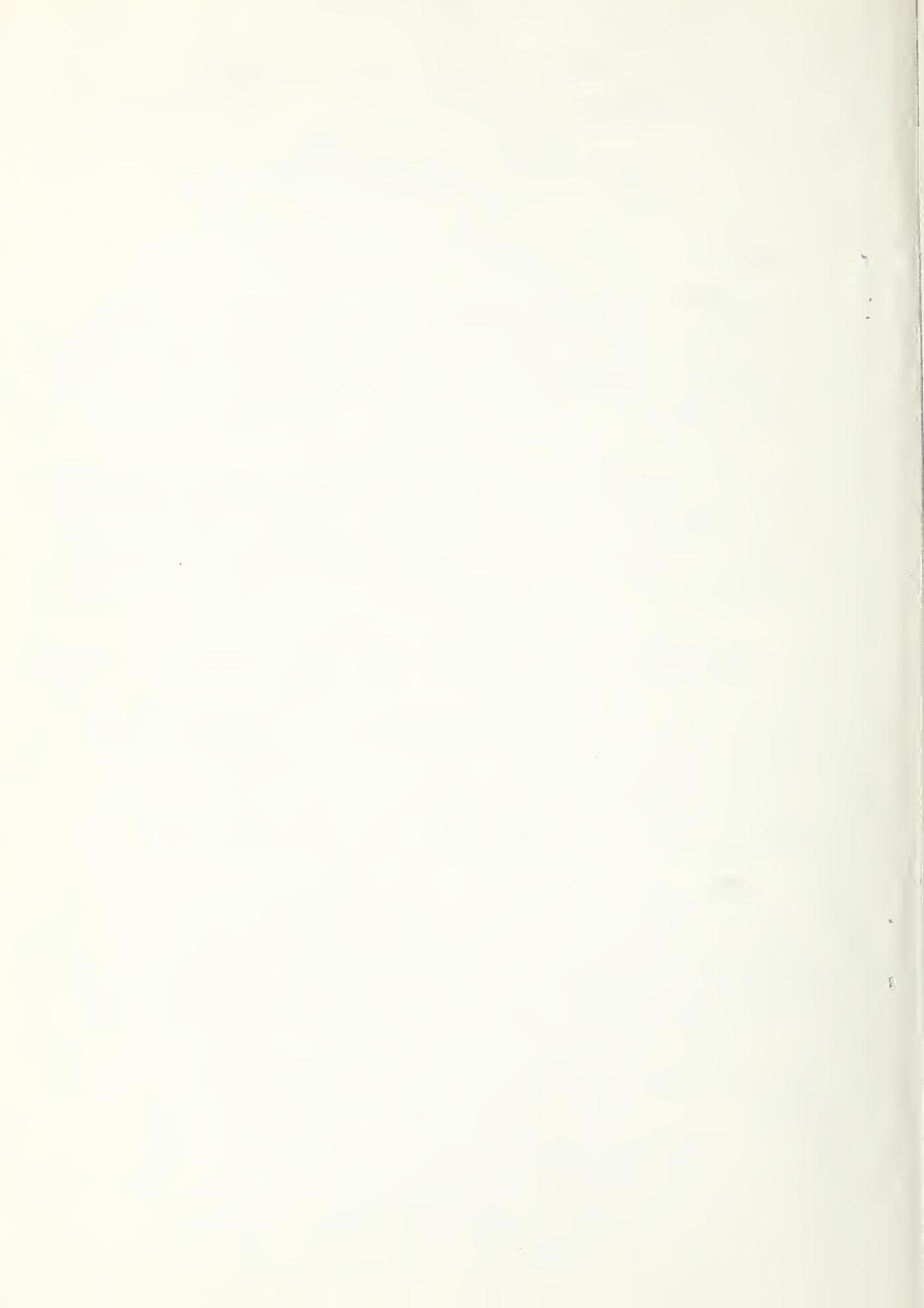
We appreciate very much the hard work and wholehearted cooperation of all those who helped in any way to make our 1968 State ASCS Conference a success.

State ASC Committee

Richard A. Moore, Chairman
J. Paul Bonneau, Member
Morris E. LaFrance, Member
Robert P. Davison, Ex Officio

ASCS State Office

A. F. Heald, State Executive Director
George T. Hart, Fieldman
Edson E. Gifford, Jr., Fieldman



PROGRAM
Vermont State ASCS Conference
April 15 and 16, 1968

HOLIDAY INN, SOUTH BURLINGTON, VERMONT

First Day

9:00 a.m. Register, get name tags and
to banquet tickets at
10:00 a.m. Conference Registration Desk

Conference Opened by
Morris E. LaFrance, Presiding

10:00 a.m. Conference Goals

Richard A. Moore
Chairman, State
ASC Committee

10:15 a.m. A Look at the ASCS Job

Harry A. Peters
Northeast Area
Director, ASCS

Questions and Answers

Recess Milk Break

11:15 a.m. Rural Families and the Office of
Economic Opportunity

Thomas C. Davis
State Director,
Office of Economic
Opportunity

Questions and Answers

12:00 noon Lunch

J. Paul Bonneau, Presiding

1:30 p.m. Agriculture and the Department of
Employment Security

John M. White
Director, Vermont
Employment
Service Division

Questions and Answers

2:00 p.m. Planning for Vermont's Future

Leonard O. Wilson
Director of
Planning, Central
Planning Office

Questions and Answers

Recess Milk Break

3:00 p.m.	Report from Congress	Robert Stafford Congressman Vermont
3:15 p.m.	Impact of Recreation on Vermont Agriculture	Malcolm Bevins Extension Economist
Questions and Answers		
4:15 p.m.	How the Food Stamp Program Works	Donald Carrigan Officer in Charge, Consumer Food Programs, C&MS
Questions and Answers		
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

CONFERENCE BANQUET

April 15, 1968

6:30 p.m.

Toastmaster - Richard A. Moore
Chairman, State
ASC Committee

PROGRAM

Musical Selections - Miss Cheryl Blanchette

Recognition of County Committeemen
and Others

Guest Speaker - George D. Aiken
U. S. Senator
Vermont

Second Day
Morris E. LaFrance, Presiding

9:30 a.m. Working with the State Soil Conservation Council Gerald Greaves, Jr.
Executive Secretary

Questions and Answers

10:00 a.m. Milk Marketing Problems Richard D. Aplin
Marketing Administrator, Mass.-
R.I. Milk Marketing Order

Questions and Answers

Recess Milk Break

11:00 a.m. Trends in ACP Warren Myers
Director, Land Use
and Cons. Branch,
Farmer Programs
Division, ASCS

Questions and Answers

12:00 noon Lunch

Richard A. Moore, Presiding

1:30 p.m. Discussion of 4-H Tractor Training Program John Merchant
Supervisor and
Program Leader
Extension Service

Questions and Answers

2:00 p.m. Discussion of Vermont ASCS Programs

Led by:

A. ACP, CAP, CRP, Defense, and TAP
A. F. Heald
State Executive
Director, ASCS

B. Wool, Feed Grain and Wheat

G. T. Hart
Fieldman, ASCS

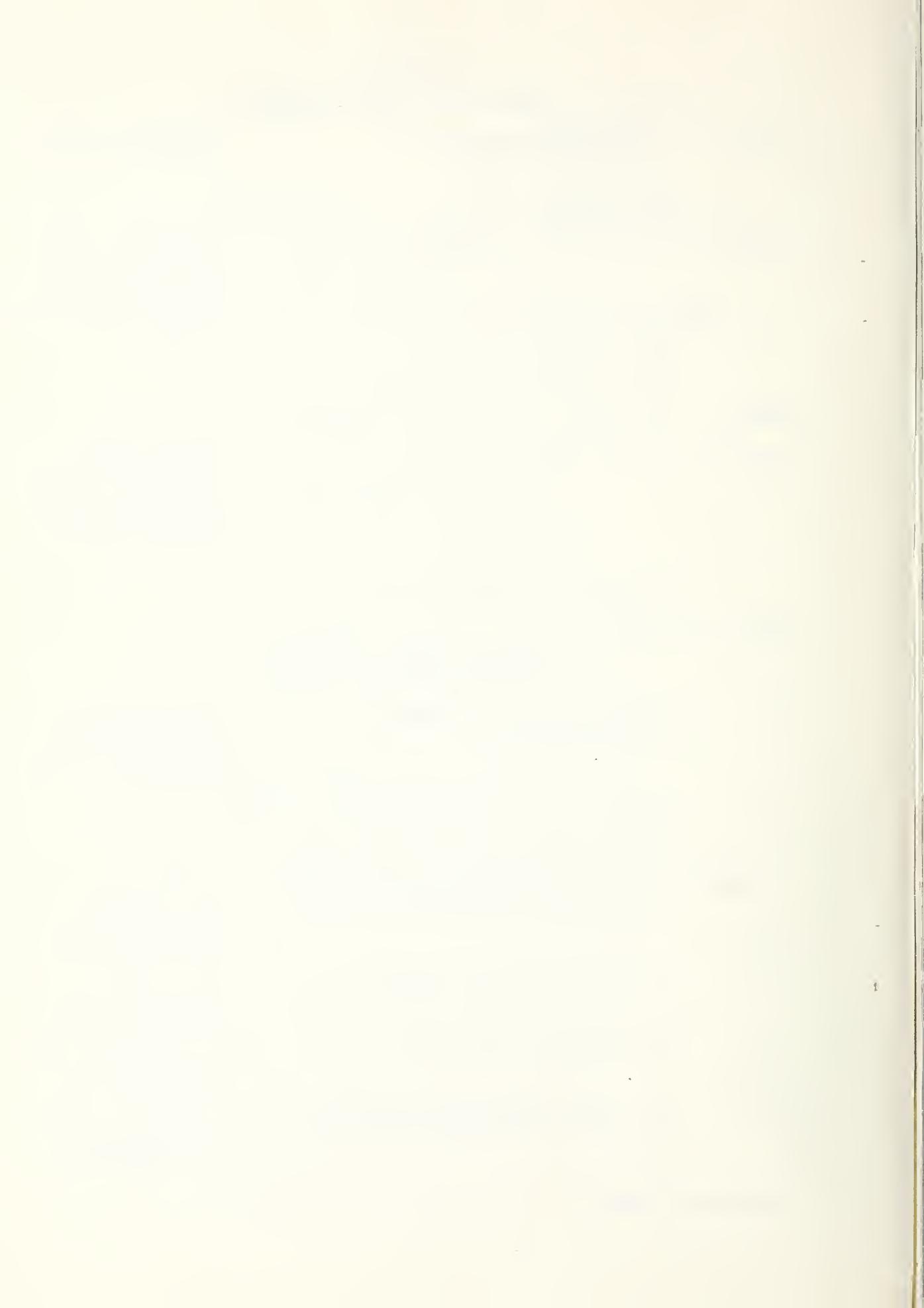
C. County Elections

E. E. Gifford, Jr.
Fieldman, ASCS

D. County Informational Meetings

Richard A. Moore
Chairman, State
ASC Committee

4:15 p.m. Adjourn



CONFERENCE GOALS

by

Richard A. Moore, Chairman, Vermont State ASC Committee

at the State ASCS Conference

South Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 1968

A big welcome to you all. We are here again. We are in a new location. We have a few new faces. Much has happened since we met last time, and there are a lot of changes ahead. I hope during these next two days we can get up to date on some of these changes.

In fact, we have set up your conference so that we will have an opportunity to look at some of the programs that other people are carrying out in Vermont that affect rural people. That is why a little later we will hear from Tom Davis, who is Director of our State Office of Economic Opportunity.

We are also glad that John White, Director of the Employment Service, can be with us and I hope that he will bring us up to date on some of the questions we have had about farm labor.

Our Director of Planning, Leonard Wilson, will give us an insight into overall planning in Vermont. This we look forward to.

Area Director Peters is with us once again and he will bring us up to date on ASCS activities. We have enjoyed working with Harry and welcome him to our conference.

We are also fortunate that our Congressman, Bob Stafford, can be with us for a while this afternoon.

Later in the day Mal Bevins will talk to us on recreation, and Don Carrigan, who works with the USDA, particularly on the Food Stamp Program, will bring us up to date on his activities.

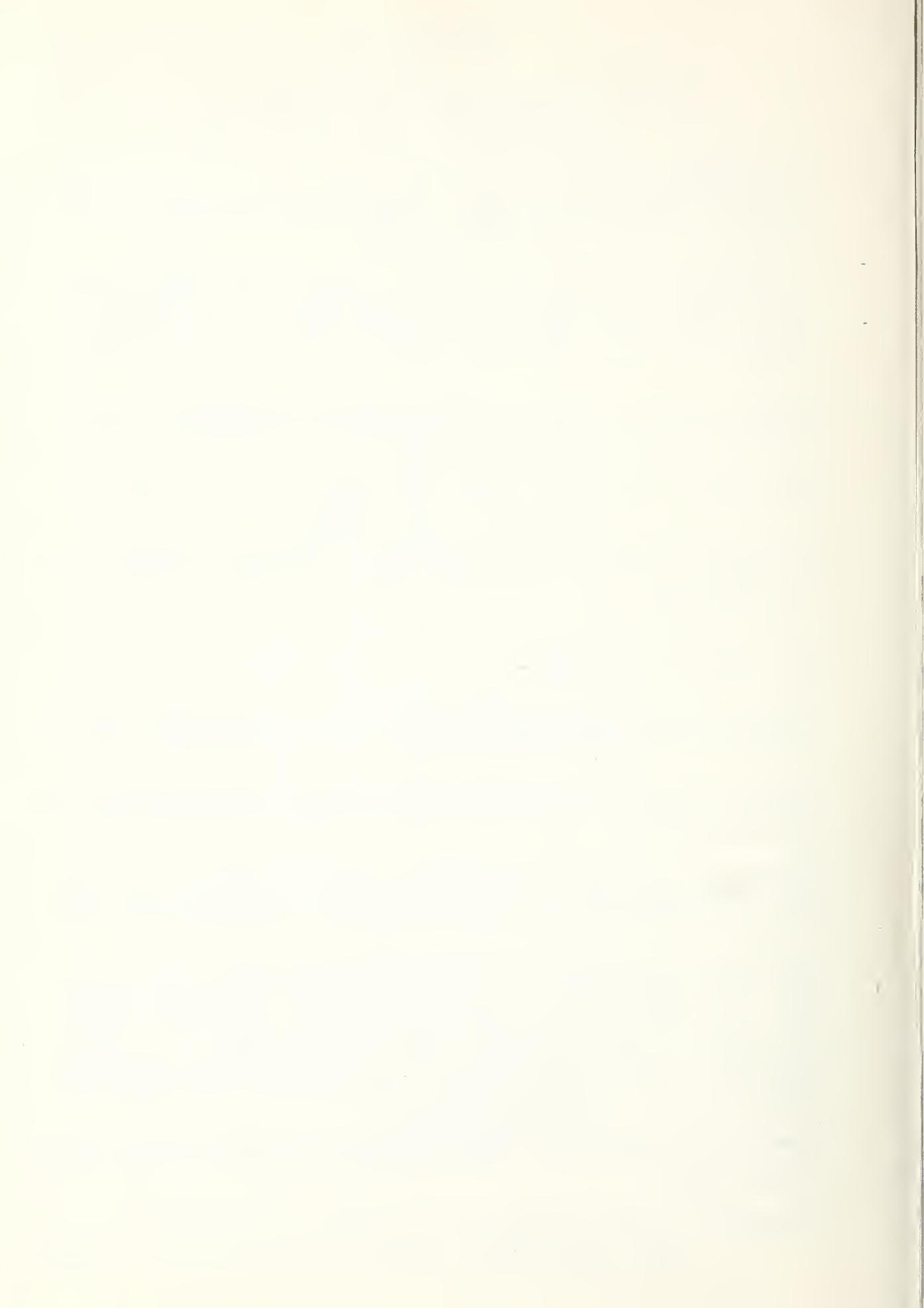
We think we have a good banquet lined up for you. We are particularly happy that we can have our Senior Senator with us tonight. We look forward to hearing from him.

Tomorrow, we will have an opportunity to meet our Secretary of the State Soil Conservation Council, and we welcome back our old friend, Dick Aplin, who will discuss the always interesting subject of milk marketing.

ACP is our really big program here in Vermont. In fact, as you know, we have just completed a series of planning meetings at which we discussed the ACP program with each of our counties and with our community committeemen. This was a real good series of meetings, well attended. We will discuss the summary of the recommendations later on in the conference. Now, we know there are some changes ahead in ACP, and that is why we asked Warren Myers to be with us and bring us up to date on what is happening. Some of the rumors we like, and some we don't.

Tomorrow afternoon we will discuss the everyday activities of the programs we administer in this State. Our State Office crew will lead the discussion on these items.

Conclusion - I want to repeat that the success of our conference depends on you. Do your part. Participate in the discussions and help us do a better job.



A LOOK AT THE ASCS JOB

Talk by Harry A. Peters, Northeast Area Director
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 1968

There are those people who oppose farm programs for selfish reasons. They think they themselves would profit with no programs and the farmer-be-damned. Of course, what these people neglect to take into consideration, is that the general economic health of this Nation still is greatly influenced by the state of agriculture, and that farm programs contribute to a healthier agriculture.

Many of us here know that farm programs were controversial when they were first put into effect about 35 years ago. They have always been controversial, and I am convinced they will be controversial for some time to come. And one thing I am doubly sure of is that farm programs will be more controversial this year - 1968 - than they were last year and more than they will be in 1969.

What I am trying to point out is that none of us here should delude ourselves with a belief that someday, someone will put through a farm program which will be received with unanimity. That hasn't happened, and it's not about to happen. This country was founded on free and open debate, and none of us wants it to be any different.

What I do believe, however, is that in a great many cases farm programs have gotten a "bad rap" simply because they are misunderstood. Our programs are vastly complicated. The farm economy itself is difficult to understand. The system of marketing farm products, both domestic and foreign, is tough to comprehend.

There is an old axiom, you know, that says people are usually against those things which they don't understand. It is a fact that a great many people don't understand the goals of our programs.

So we have a problem on our hands. Now, I think I know a good deal about farm programs, farm problems, and agriculture in general. And I'm sure you do. If you didn't know more about these things than other people in your area, you wouldn't have been elected by your neighbors to serve on the ASC committee. It's just as simple as that. I repeat, you are experts in the field. You run the farm program in your county. People look to you for leadership, advice and guidance. So let us not shirk our responsibilities to inform people of the values and goals of our programs simply because they are controversial.

Our problem -- yours and mine -- is to communicate better. I firmly believe that the general public -- and many farmers too -- would be more sympathetic and more inclined to support our efforts if they had a better understanding of what our programs are, and what we are trying to accomplish with them. And it goes without saying that we can only succeed in our goal of better farm income if we have support for our programs.

With this in mind, then, let's examine some of our communications problems and see if we can devise methods to come to grips with them.

Let me say first off that we have problems in communications -- we must recognize this -- Washington has problems, State Offices have problems, and so do counties. At the same time all of us have been doing a good job in some respects. Generally, we have been doing a good job in telling farmers how they can participate in, and benefit from, our programs. The figures on our sign-ups and the participation in our programs bear this out. Vermont's ACP sign-up is an excellent example.

But it seems that we have not been doing a very good job in telling farmers, and the general public, why we do things certain ways. We have been doing a fine job of telling farmers the "how" of farm programs, but I believe we have all fallen down on communicating the "why" of farm programs. We are trying to correct this problem.

Recently, your county offices have been receiving what are called Action/Policy Papers (white papers). These are discussions of policy decisions on agricultural problems that have arisen. They attempt to fill in the background. Their primary purpose is to let county committeemen and their employees know what is going on and why.

For 3 years now you've been receiving PIP Fact Sheets that answer questions that have arisen. The PIP service also includes a special question-answering set-up so that you can get a quick answer from Washington by telex to a question you can't handle at home.

It is my sincere wish that each of you will now make an appraisal of what you are doing in your communities to inform farmers and the general public of both the "How's" and "Why's" of the farm program. After all, a government program such as ours is a public program and we must stand ready to give an accounting of our stewardship to the people we serve, to the general public and to the Congress which authorizes and funds our programs.

I think it is obvious to each and every one of us here that in order to run a good program it must have backing from not only the people who participate in the program, but from the general public as well. And I don't think you can get much support for farm programs if people don't know about them, or don't understand why they are necessary. And you can't get support for farm programs if information about them is tucked away in your vest pocket, and known only to yourself.

You and I know that ASCS Programs are pocketbook programs -- that they add substantially to the income farmers receive. 3.2 billion dollars of 16.3 dollars net farm income in 1966. And we know what this income means to the employment, sales and profits in the entire community. After all, your primary interest is the net effect farm programs have on the income of farmers and the economic stability of your community.

Yes, we know this and we know that our farm programs contribute greatly to a healthy farm and rural community. But do other people know this? Do the bankers know it? Do the newspaper editors know it? Do other community leaders in your area know it?

If these people don't know about it, they should. And here's where I speak specifically to you State and county committeemen. I think it is your job, more than anyone else's, to bring the "why's" of the farm program to people in your area. Committeemen are policy-making people for the most part. On the other hand, your county office employees, for the most part, are administrative personnel. There is considerable difference between the two. You make the policies and your office employees carry out those policies. I think explaining the "why's" of farm programs is, to a large degree, a policy matter, and, therefore, committeemen have a great responsibility to do their best to insure that farm program policy is disseminated and understood. I think, for example, that your county committeemen should go with your county office manager to visit influential people in your area, such as editors, bankers, and other rural community leaders.

Yes, you committeemen have a big job, and a heavy responsibility. It is your duty to make certain that a good job is being done in your offices and that farmers are well-served. Then, it is also in your job description to be sure that everyone understands the job we are doing.

Our duty is to explain program benefits to the whole community -- not only to farmers and farmer-oriented members of the community, but also to business and professional people, for often they are among the most influential leaders in the area.

They should know the agricultural "facts of life" today. They should understand that the Nation's farmers still retain the ability to vastly overproduce the market. And they should be made aware that farmers must have a means to protect themselves from glutted markets. And that, of course, is where farm programs come in.

Furthermore, there will continue to be a need for farm programs until the time arrives when farmers themselves can have sufficient control over their marketings so as to avoid disastrously low prices or until population catches up with the farmers' capacity to overproduce. I think both of those alternatives are quite a long way off yet.

So today, you and I bear great responsibility to farmers and to the Nation to administer these farm programs in the best way possible as our contribution to a strong and viable America. And at the same time we have an obligation to see that farmers and the public understand that our goals are to provide stability to American agriculture.

The success of the farm program over the past 35 years has hinged on the farmer-elected committee system, a unique experiment when it began and now an established and respected entity in farming communities.

We in Washington are proud of all our ASCS people -- the committeemen and the employees who work in the field and in the county and State offices. We all appreciate the work you are doing to administer programs ably and fairly.

You should be proud of your record of administration. And both you and I can be thankful that our work together has been for the benefit of the farmers of America.

It was good to visit with you again and participate in your conference. Thank you.

RURAL FAMILIES AND THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Excerpts from Talk Given by Thomas C. Davis, State Director
Office of Economic Opportunity
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 1968

Mr. Davis spoke from notes and no verbatim copy of his speech is available.

I wish to emphasize that the poor people of the State must be involved in any poverty program, and the success or failure in the program will depend upon the quality of leadership from the poor people themselves. The involvement of the less fortunate in the program aids by the very fact that they are employed themselves and by their close association with others in a similar predicament.

The causes of rural poverty are based on (1) lack of money (2) lack of hope and (3) lack of opportunity, and these problems are not amenable to mass solutions.

The goals of the program are to bring about changes in society, and to coordinate this program with other programs already in effect. Unemployment is one major cause of poverty in rural areas. This has resulted in technological changes and the decline in the need for unskilled employees. Then, too, the high minimum wage makes it so expensive to employ people for menial tasks that potential employers refrain from hiring anyone to do this type of work. It is also a fact that most of the unemployed people in the State have some handicap such as addiction to alcohol, to drugs, some emotional conflict or other cause that makes them nearly unemployable.

There is need to develop new National approaches. There is as much rural poverty as there is urban poverty. There needs to be a better rural-urban balance in our society. There is a definite need for more money to finance rural poverty programs. One help would be block grants of funds earmarked for rural poverty assistance. The emphasis on any of these programs should be placed in the field, and care should be exercised that the program not become top-heavy with top brass. Another major problem is that Congress at present does not provide the proper amount of lead time on the money to be made available for OEO. This makes it difficult to set up an effective long-range plan when the amount of money available for the operation of any program is unpredictable from year to year. Under the present system, field units cannot currently plan effectively because the amount of money to be available is not known far enough in advance.

In conclusion, State people working in poverty should not fear their Federal counterparts. The Technical Action Panels and the Cooperative Area Manpower Planning Service are needed. We should not hesitate to get the obvious need taken care of, and that joint agency planning and programming is needed. 50% of the funds available in Vermont go to the Regional Community Action Programs through 5 regional offices.

AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Talk by John M. White Director, Vermont
Employment Service Division
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 1968

I have been asked to speak to you today about the relationship of the Vermont State Employment Service to Agriculture in Vermont.

There is, as you are all aware, a substantial volume of agriculturally related statistics and the projections made by professionals in related fields all point to significant changes that have taken place and continue to do so in the general field of agriculture.

Mechanization and technological advances, it would seem, have substituted capital for labor to a large extent. The need for the hired hand as such, decreases and is replaced with a greater need for skilled technicians competent to deal with sophisticated machinery, production concepts and management. The growth of agri-business as compared to the traditional concept of farming creates an even greater need for professional and technically trained workers whose main efforts will not necessarily be on the farm and whose areas of work encompass both the public and the private sectors.

Although there is a continuing and persistent unmet demand for dairy farm hands, major requirements for agricultural labor are generally seasonal in nature. In Vermont there is the apple harvest requiring about 1200 workers. This is not yet mechanized. There are haying season needs. There is also the logging industry that requires alien importation averaging some 400 workers annually to meet their needs. You may not relate the logging industry to farming, but for our purposes it is necessary as the National Farm Labor Service office includes this activity.

Over a period of time non-agricultural industries have been readily absorbing the former sources of agricultural help with the advantages of wage, hours, and fringe benefits that are available to relatively few agricultural workers. This is not to be construed as a statement that holds true in all of Vermont agricultural enterprise, but in this period of dramatic change, there are indications that necessary adjustments do not keep in step with the universe of the change itself.

The decrease in the number of farms and the accompanying increase in farm size is indicative of the awareness of productive farmers of the need to increase not only in size but also in the production per unit. Recent surveys and studies are available from many sources to substantiate this.

It is necessary that the Vermont State Employment Service conduct its agricultural activities according to the regulations of the Secretary of Labor with full compliance to the policies and procedures of the Bureau of Employment Security. An annual Plan of Action is required for which consideration must be given to the economic condition of the previous year and a projection of the conditions for the current year. The plan incorporates both seasonal and year-round activity.

Our experience has been that the year-round activity in our local offices consists of, largely, service to dairy farmers on a request basis. That is, we do not actively put our staff in the field soliciting job orders. This is due to the fact that there are only 4.0 positions available to provide such service to the public in the entire state with 12 local offices. The volume of requests for service other than dairy farm help on a year-round basis are in our experience too few to be significant statistically.

Seasonal activity includes haying operations which create temporary demand for farm labor from June through August. The apple harvest recruitment, in which we are involved from May through Mid-October, by virtue of the use of out-of-state migrant labor and the temporary importation of aliens for this activity. Assistance is provided to growers in respect to compliance with federal regulations for such labor. Also, the logging industry which due to shortages of qualified piecemakers import aliens for each of two six month periods in order to meet their contractual agreements. Because of the use of aliens in this program it is also necessary for woods operators to comply with federal regulations.

For a period of time it was possible, in co-operation with the Farm Bureau, to import temporary bonded farm labor for sugaring and haying for a period of up to 6 months. However, since the passage of Immigration and Naturalization Act amendment of 1965 it has not been possible to import temporary farm labor.

Vermont has, for 28 consecutive years, conducted a program designed to bring metropolitan youth to Vermont to work on farms for the summer. The program began in 1942 and was known formally as the Vermont Land Corp., but in operation was the Victory Farm Volunteer Program. It had a counterpart in many states during WWII. In 1951 the name of the program was changed to Vermont Farm Volunteers. This was also the year that Vermont became the sole state to operate such a program. In this program youth from agricultural schools and high schools not only in Vermont, but from several other states live with a farmer and his family and take part in their daily lives. There is an insurance paid for by the farmer for everyone's protection and supervision by occasional visits is given by the Employment Service. The youth are given a two-week training period for which the wage ranges from \$20-\$30 per week, plus room, board and laundry. Following this period the wages are adjusted according to the farmers decision and the Volunteers agreement of the value attained.

From a high of some 700 Volunteers during the WWII period the program has declined in scope until it is now operating with less than 25 such Volunteers. The reason for this is again, wage and that the Agric. schools from which they are recruited do not require the actual farm work experience as they did formerly.

The Employment Service attempts to cooperate fully with individuals and organizations that have a common interest in agricultural problems, and assistance and advice is freely sought and offered relative to the recruitment and use of domestic labor, and in housing and living conditions of migrants or, if necessary, alien agricultural workers.

In the early years of the MDTA program it was relatively simple to provide training in the various occupations where shortages existed. Due to the policy changes and cutbacks in funds we now are limited in the scope of our training opportunity. We have conducted in conjunction with the Department of Education, courses in Farm Management, Xmas tree production with Basic Education. It is planned, if funds are available, to conduct a course in Farm Management and a course for Dairy Farm Hands for 15 Trainees at the Waterbury State Farm. It is also planned if funds are available to conduct a course in Xmas tree production for 25 trainees in Franklin County.

Briefly, then, I believe this provides a picture of the service that is provided to the farm community by the Employment Service: Recruitment, registration, referral, training, interstate migrant and alien importation assistance.

Over the last 4 year period there has been a 24% decrease in orders placed with our local offices for farm help. This does not necessarily reflect that the demand for farm workers has decreased to this extent. It must be recognized that because of the non-availability of workers for farm jobs that in many instances farmers in need of help have ceased to place their orders with us.

On some 6,000 job openings received in the last 4 years we have been able to make 6,000 referrals. This should not be interpreted as a 1 for 1 referral to job openings. On some orders there are more than one referral and on some, due to wages, working conditions and perquisites it was not possible to refer any one. A total of 2,578 placements resulted from these referrals.

In contrast local Employment Service offices have on file a large number of applicants with farm background who would be suitable for referral to such openings, but they are simply not interested. Former farm workers reasons for preferring a non-agriculture job are, we understand in the following order -- hours, wages, benefits.

I am concerned that I cannot provide any ready answers to this problem. It is apparent that the agricultural segment of the economy is not in a favorable position to compete for labor with the presently demanding non-agricultural segment. We in the State Employment Service share this concern with you and are certainly ready and willing to explore all possible avenues that can possibly provide answers to this pressing problem.

PLANNING FOR VERMONT'S FUTURE

Talk by Leonard U. Wilson, Director of Planning
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 1968

The Vermont Planning Council was created by legislation in the spring of 1967 with the stated purpose "that the State benefit from an integrated program for the development and effective employment of its natural and human resources and in order to promote the health, safety and general welfare of its citizens..."

The Statute says the Council shall "act as a representative agency to initiate and coordinate state, regional and local planning activities..."

The Statute prescribes that the Governor be Chairman of the 11-member Council; that the Commissioners of Administration, Development and Highways be members ex-officio; that the Governor name an additional agency head each from the natural and human resource areas; that the House and Senate name one representative each, and that three public members be appointed by the Governor.

The same Statute created the State Planning Officer to be director of the then existing Central Planning Office (CPO) and named the CPO as the executive staff of the Council.

I was appointed as the first State Planning Officer last October.

The principal reasons for the creation of the Council and the elevation of the status of the Director of the Central Planning Office have been the following:

1. To bring together under one umbrella overall responsibility for the diverse planning efforts going forward in various State, regional and local bodies;
2. To encourage and coordinate more effective State agency planning;
3. To broaden the scope and concern of CPO planning to truly comprehensive social, environmental and economic planning.

Recent Vermont planning efforts have a variety of historic sources.

Increasingly through the decade, the Federal government has been insisting on comprehensive planning as a prerequisite to project grants. Various, on the State, regional, or local level, planning has been necessary to establish eligibility for sewer, water, housing, urban renewal and recreation grants.

The Central Planning Office can justify its existence by citing the \$20 million of project grants that resulted in 1966-1967 from CPO-sponsored planning.

But local and regional planning is not solely concerned with attracting Federal investment. Currently 183 towns and cities in 13 regions have voted to undertake planning. These communities represent close to 90% of the State's population.

The real inspiration to plan would seem to be a deep concern among Vermont citizens about the future. The fast pace of change within the State, the proximity of surrounding multitudes with their potential impact on uses of Vermont land and the increasing problems of meeting - out of meager and sometimes diminishing local resources - the demands for schools, roads, welfare, recreation and health facilities in an inflationary economy.

A contributing factor to Vermont's planning interest is a general nationwide determination to make State and local government more effective. The Federal government has proved pretty inefficient and inept in handling a range of domestic problems pushed toward Washington in earlier decades. In the last few years, States and communities have been asked to take back responsibility for more and more of their own affairs, often in partnership with Federal agencies. Vermont, clearly, has welcomed this change.

The Hoff Administration certainly would be characterized as activist and committed to positive government.

Another element is - for lack of a better term - the "information revolution" which, through technological advances, makes a gigantic reservoir of data available and provides the means of manipulating this data as the basis for studying alternative courses of future action.

To mention, finally, an important root of Vermont planning, the Governor, on taking over in 1962, found himself with a budget that was all lines and figures and contained no real clue of the goals, objectives, priorities, program justifications or long-range implications of proposed expenditures. He has set the State on a new course in its budgeting procedures that will increasingly require that budget decisions be made on the evidence of sound planning.

Planning activity in Vermont is as diverse as its roots. As I have said, the Vermont Planning Council was created to bring all of the elements of planning together before the Governor. He has, incidentally, attended every meeting of the Council since my arrival.

As I have suggested, planning is not the province or responsibility of one official or agency of State government. It is - or should be - an activity of all agencies as well as of public, quasi-public and private bodies on the interstate, state, regional, and local levels throughout Vermont. It involves the production of plans - often to meet Federal requirements - but its more important function is to generate imaginative and intelligent thinking about the future course of the State on a continuing basis. Planning involves coordination of State efforts, but certainly is not aimed at stifling innovation in programming by State agencies.

It is a process by which the choices facing the State can be brought to light and intelligent long-range decisions encouraged.

Planning must itself be inspired and guided by goals. The Governor has been urging that a statement of the goals of the State of Vermont be written.

The State Framework Plan, which is now nearing completion in draft in my office, will include such a proposed statement. This statement, will, of course, be reviewed and refined - probably rewritten - by the Governor and the Council, and will be subject to constant revision and adjustment to new political realities.

The Public Investment Plan, near completion in the Department of Administration, will contain a statement of more explicit economic objectives.

Agencies will get some guidance in describing their own program objectives from these statements of goals, and they will be obliged to be explicit about their program objectives in this new budgeting process to which I referred a moment ago.

I have mentioned the State Framework Plan and the Public Investment Plan. The first will be essentially a broad goals statement with some indications of possible general future courses the State may take. The Public Investment Plan is a body of statements and proposals in the economic sphere. A State Recreation Plan and the Capital Complex Plan are completed. We are beginning a fairly massive federally sponsored project in Comprehensive Health Planning on a statewide basis. Several agencies have written or are writing plans covering all or part of their particular areas of concern. Every agency has some form of planning activity, if only in minimal response to the need for budget request justification.

The annual budget is, in itself, a plan. In the new system we are developing, the budget becomes a much more readable, understandable, rational document. Read together with the agency multi-year Program and Financial Plans, the Budget is, in fact, a long-range State plan.

What is the objective of these efforts?

Why are we engaged in planning?

What are we planning for?

The planner has a basic creed: Tomorrow begins today. The decisions we make now are going to determine the kind of future we can expect. We are going to live - happily or sadly - with the consequences of what we do or do not do right now.

Obviously, as a first step, we have to try to understand - and face - what is happening today.

Let's take a hard look at Vermont.

We are surrounded by a very rapidly growing industrial-commercial-residential complex that is devouring land, destroying nature, generating masses of people and breeding social crisis. More than 50 million people live within a day's drive of our borders. In 20 years there will probably be more than 80 million in the immediate surrounding areas of Canada and the Northeastern States.

Sustained economic prosperity and technological advance are making the decade of the 60's a period of extraordinary growth and change in the region. A revolution in transportation and communication is magnifying the impact of this growth and change on Vermont.

Much benefit has come to the State as the opportunities presented by the booming 60's have been seized both privately and publicly. Vermonters have been energetic in meeting the challenges of growth and change.

Nevertheless, root problems have restricted our initiative. As compared to most States, Vermont has few people. The State is not rich in natural resources and is short of good agricultural land. We have only limited industrial production. Our geography, while a magnificent endowment, has curbed our economic development.

A shortage of remunerative jobs coupled with the increasing difficulty of making farming pay have intensified the migration of youth away from many areas of the State. The lure of the outside world has continued to attract too many Vermonters in their most productive years.

Meanwhile, the prosperous from the surrounding urban areas have been buying up rural homes and land at spiraling prices. Huge recreational enterprises have spurred the land boom. Speculators have profited: The rural Vermonter has found it harder and harder to stay on his land.

While much investment and energy has gone into commercial development, little attention has been given to producing adequate housing for Vermonters. A critical shortage of homes exists and is growing worse.

The cost of government - local as well as State - has soared in response to demands for quality education, high-speed highways and multiplying health and social services. Government at every level is finding great difficulty in financing its needs.

The burdens of taxation have often fallen unfairly on those least able to bear them.

New residential building and commercial development has too often been haphazard and unsightly. Older commercial areas have been let to deteriorate as new buildings and parking lots have drawn businesses to the outskirts and open highways.

Vermont's greatest attraction - its scenery - has, in too many places, been blighted by ugly signs and buildings.

Much of Vermont's water - lakes, rivers, and streams - is polluted.

Heedless trespassers have forced the closing of thousands of acres of forest land and farmland to hunters, fishermen and hikers.

Despite this catalog of deficits and ills, Vermonters are neither complacent nor disheartened. There is a strong will to find the ways and means to resolve the present and impending problems while preserving the State's unique natural, social, and cultural qualities.

History credits Vermonters with ingenuity, vigor, and imagination. Vermonters have dared in the past to experiment, to innovate.

Essential to Vermont's progress is a firmer, more stable economic base. On the one hand we must secure productive private and public capital, including large-scale outside investment in industrial, agricultural, commercial, recreational, cultural and governmental facilities and activities.

This must be balanced investment: It is neither practical nor desirable to concentrate capital in either industrial or recreational development.

On the other hand we must conscientiously conserve our natural resources and protect our extraordinary endowment of countryside, forests, hills and streams. These are major factors in luring capital.

We must also ensure the high-standard performance of our manpower. The traditional excellence of Vermont's work force must be sustained through education and training that provides - at every level of sophistication - capability that meets the demand.

"Low cost" and "high standard" are contradictory terms when applied to labor. We must concentrate on raising the income level as well as the training of our work force if we are to maintain the stability and quality of manpower that will attract the investment we require.

We must commit ourselves to providing adequate health services for all our citizens, meet our welfare needs and - most critically - provide our children with a high standard of education - including college and post-graduate education for qualified students.

Effective and efficient government at all levels is essential if we are going to meet these demands. We must not fear new departures in cooperation and coordination among towns, between the towns and the State, and between the State and Federal government. Local initiative can in fact be strengthened by removing some of the obsolete and overlapping governmental structures and institutions that we have inherited from by-gone years.

We should not hesitate to take advantage of Federal largesse if it serves our ends and hastens us toward our objectives. These are our dollars returned. Where conflicts with our own purposes and priorities emerge, however, we should refuse the bait.

The future we are looking at will be costly.

The equitable sharing of the burdens of taxation as well as an equitable distribution of public services and resources must be a central objective of public policy.

We have to think fast and think hard about how we can control the physical growth of the State. A welter of mills and motels is not a pleasant prospect. Moreover, haphazard development and squandering of natural resources will produce quick financial return at the cost of long-term growth and prosperity.

Public policy and private endeavor should encourage the concentration of commercial and industrial investment in selected centers around the State. New home building should closely surround these growth centers but in patterns that provide residents with open space.

In rural areas and in the commercial-recreational developments, new homes and services should also be concentrated so that all the countryside is not spattered with buildings.

By such deliberate shaping of new communities and reshaping of old, we can preserve our rural villages, protect productive agricultural and wood land and preserve our choice natural areas. We can prevent hazardous clutter along our highways and preserve the scenic qualities of our open roads.

We need a rational conservation and development program for our rural areas with the objective of creating a balance of recreation areas, tourist attractions - including historic sites - unobtrusive and high quality tourist facilities, natural and wilderness areas, byways and trails, public hunting and fishing areas, scenic highways and multiple-use forest and water preserves.

We should not hesitate to encourage where necessary acquisition of property - outright and by easements - by public and by private non-profit organizations. Equitable compensation to towns for tax loss must, however, be part of such a program.

Vermont's new highway construction should be planned to encourage a rational development of the State. Roads should be designed to serve growth centers bringing in from their surroundings the working populace, the school children, and those seeking commercial and public services.

Roads in rural areas should be designed for efficiency and safety, but not in disregard for their scenic quality.

Superhighways to facilitate travel into, around and across the State must continue to be built, but great discretion in design and location must be exercised.

I have tried to sketch for you - in very broad outline - ways in which Vermont can approach its paramount problem, that of actively pursuing economic and social development while protecting and preserving the unique quality of its environment.

We are going to be subject to severe pressures and strains in the immediate years ahead. Reconciliation of these conflicts - orderly development - is only going to be possible if we plan for the future.

Progress in Vermont will be the product of a creative local, State, and Federal partnership as well as the partnership of public and private initiative.

The most vital ingredient, however, is citizen planning effort. Our goals will be set beyond reach of immediate fulfillment. They will stress the quality of life more than the quantity of things. We will forever seek to broaden opportunities for individual choice and fulfillment.

As Vermonters, we will remain devoted to certain ultimate values: the dignity of the individual, the sanctity of the family, the security of the community.

REPORT FROM CONGRESS

Excerpts from Talk by Congressman Robert Stafford
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 1968

Since Congressman Stafford spoke extemporaneously, no copy of his talk is available.

Legislation recently passed or pending falls into four important categories: (1) Civil Rights, (2) Truth in Lending Bill, (3) Dollar Drain, and (4) the Disclosure Bill. The passage of the Civil Rights Bill is a landmark in this type of legislation and should do much to alleviate the tense situation in this country. In regard to the dollar drain, the two price goal system will bring about temporary benefit and will give us a breathing spell to put our fiscal affairs in order. The country seems to be cooling off and the Civil Rights Act passage will help keep the temperature down. No particular effect is expected in Vermont by the passage of the Civil Rights Bill; the Bill was not enacted under pressure and is a major step forward. It is impossible to legislate complete equality, and this must be brought about by all the people of America working together.

With a 20 billion dollar deficit in the budget, he urged that Congress and the President sit down and decide top priority and cut expenditures where they can. This must be done to stem inflation. He implied that he will support ASCS programs but thinks they will have a tough time competing for money in 1969. We must put our fiscal house in order soon. There cannot be substantial savings in (1) National Defense, (2) Education, and (3) Poverty Programs, but he would recommend stretching out the space race, the super airliner development, and foreign aid. He urged the elimination of all pork barrel legislation.

In reference to the war in Vietnam, he feels that the Tet offensive was smothered, and stated that the roads are now reopened and the South Vietnamese reacted much better than expected. Peace should not be expected to come quickly in Vietnam, but we do not want a phony peace. Any peace must allow for the independence of South Vietnam. He urged that free elections are needed and that there should be no terror by the Viet Cong in any election. He thinks that the Viet Cong will have a word in the negotiations.

IMPACT OF RECREATION ON VERMONT AGRICULTURE

Condensation of Talk by Malcolm Bevins, Extension Economist
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 1968

(The complete text of this interesting talk is available by writing
Malcolm I. Bevins, Extension Economist, University of Vermont, Burlington,
Vermont, 05401).

Today, the bulk of rural land in Vermont can be classified into one of three uses--agriculture, timber production, or recreation. Each of these three industries has undergone vast change since World War II. My central purpose today will be to take a close look at the recreation industry in Vermont, its growth since World War II, its impact upon agriculture and forestry, and the opportunity for private recreational development. I will place primary emphasis on the vacation home industry in this discussion. This industry accounts for the major recreational use of rural lands in Vermont.

Changes in Land Use

In Vermont we have nearly $5\frac{1}{2}$ million acres of land, more than 99 percent of which is rural. Through the years this land has supported a flourishing agriculture, a major timber industry, and today is supporting a growing recreation industry. Without specific restrictions, price will determine land use. Price or value is established by supply and demand for land for different purposes. The land buyer (timber company, the farmer, or the recreationist) are all bidding for land. The one who places the highest bid becomes the new landowner and establishes land use. In terms of willingness to pay, the recreationist will usually make the highest bid, followed by the farmer, and lastly the timber interests.

A great deal of land has moved from agricultural to recreational use. However, this land is primarily that which was least well adapted to agriculture -- hillside farms, those located in the mountainous areas, and those where soil productivity is low. These farms came onto the market first because of inability to efficiently produce farm products. Total agricultural productivity in the State was not reduced through this change in land use. The landowner who sold his property to the recreationist is probably better off than he would otherwise have been -- without recreation there might have been no market for the hillside farm.

If we attempt to look into the future, there seems to be little question that more and more farms will move out of agriculture and into recreation. However, land which will undergo this transition will be that which has a relatively low value for agriculture. It is very unlikely that good agricultural land located in the fertile lowlands of the State will move from agriculture to recreation. The price tag might conceivably be lower than the price tag on poorer agricultural land in mountainous areas but the recreationist will be more concerned with "recreational and scenic values" than in price. It seems rather strange to be predicting a lower value for good, fertile, flat farmlands than for rolling lands in mountain areas!

Compatibility of Different Land Uses

After a brief study of the relationship between agriculture and recreation, it is immediately apparent that these two industries are extremely compatible. Rarely does recreation impinge upon or restrict agriculture. Quite to the contrary, recreational development of land in Vermont increases the tax base and reduces tax burden for other landowners. Also, the market for farm products being sold at roadside stands is substantially improved by greater tourist traffic.

In like manner, rarely does agriculture impinge upon or restrict recreational uses. Again, to the contrary, the maintenance of open fields, well kept farm houses and other buildings enhance the recreational value by improving scenic beauty. A prosperous agriculture can only enhance the recreational development possibilities in Vermont.

For the farmer who is still farming in the mountainous areas of the State, the recreation industry has much to offer. It offers this farmer an opportunity to sell his farm at a price which is considerably above its agricultural value. If this individual still desires to farm, he will be in a better position to buy a farm in a good agricultural area, thereby improving overall efficiency and productivity.

What will be the total impact on forest production in Vermont? The recreational value of forest land is substantially higher than the timber value of such land. This can only lead to substantial reduction in total acreage of woodland being held by individuals specifically for timber production. However, in this transition the timber interests will receive substantial capital gain. The recreationist appreciates trees for their scenic value, and has little concern for the market value of trees. Furthermore, he fears a destruction of scenic value if lumbering operations are permitted. The end result can only be a reduction in timber production in Vermont. However, cleaner logging practices might change the recreationist's attitude toward timber harvests.

In order to preserve scenic beauty, at least a certain basic amount of land must be kept open. In the past, this has been accomplished through grazing and hay production. What happens when this land is no longer farmed intensively? How can the new landowner, the recreationist, keep land open and preserve the scenic values for which it was originally purchased?

In some cases, there is enough agriculture remaining in the area to create a market for hay. But how does the recreationist who spends only a few weeks in Vermont make arrangements with farmers in the area who might have a use for the hay? Dr. Frederic O. Sargent, Resource Economist at the University of Vermont, has suggested that a clearinghouse be set up to bring together the needs of the recreationist and the farmer. Any of the several agencies working with farmers might handle such clearinghouse activities. There appears to be considerable merit in such a proposal.

There are certain ASCS and SCS practices which do much toward preserving scenic beauty of the State. Among the most important would be improvement of wildlife habitat, pond construction and roadside cutting of trees to open up scenic vistas and generally enhance the beauty of the roadside. Such practices benefit the individual landowner, enhance the recreational opportunity for Vermont residents, and encourage further recreation and tourism. A State or Federal program providing scenic turnouts would add much to the total effort.

Private versus Public Recreation Development

Certain types of recreation are profitable in the pure business sense of the word. Other types of recreational developments are not and never will be profitable for the entrepreneur. Yet, many unprofitable recreational activities are being demanded by the public and play a vital title role in the total recreation package. To develop adequate facilities to meet tomorrow's recreational demands requires a coordinated effort on the part of both private and public sectors. The public sector should provide such facilities as nature trails, nature study areas, overlooks, fishing access areas, bridle paths, historic sites, picnic areas, unique geological areas, wilderness areas, etc.--all which return zero or a very low rate on capital investment. However, such facilities are vital as the core or focal point of a recreation complex. If the public sector supplies this core, the private sector can develop complementary and supplementary types of recreational facilities where financial remuneration is greater.

The Vacation Farm Industry

This is not a new industry. There were vacation farms in Vermont back 50 years ago. The industry has grown very little over the years. There appears to be a relatively limited market for farm vacations. As transportation networks improve, the desire to move from place to place and add variety to the vacation becomes important. Those vacation farms which have been successful have provided a variety of recreation. A rural or farm environment alone is not enough to attract many customers. Water for recreational purposes looms very high in terms of preference.

The Vermont farmer must evaluate the compatibility between dairy farming and a vacation farm. The busiest season for both enterprises coincides. The farmer's wife must also have a sincere interest in this type of operation if it is to be successful. She must share her home with the general public and cater to their demands for food and lodging.

If I were to look into the future I would predict a further decline in this recreational activity. The greatest opportunity would be where the farmer wishes to slow down on agricultural activities, yet supplement his reduced income.

Summary

1. The three principal uses of rural land in Vermont today are:
 - (a) Vacation properties--real estate worth \$217 million.
 - (b) Farm properties--real estate worth \$214 million.
 - (c) Commercial timber holdings--real estate worth \$60 million.

2. The transition from agriculture and timber production to recreation (and especially vacation properties) will continue and probably at an increasing rate. Town and regional planning can facilitate orderly transition.
3. Agriculture and recreation can be termed "compatible and complementary." A prosperous agriculture fosters a prosperous recreation industry by maintaining the beauty of the State.
4. In most cases the value of land for vacation property is higher than its value for agriculture or timber production. Increasing land values means capital gain for farmers and other landowners especially in the poorer agricultural areas. Technological improvements in machine methods have made our hill farms poorly adapted to efficient production. Without a recreation market the movement out of agriculture would have been much more painful.
5. In very few cases is there competition for land between the agricultural and recreational interests. For the most part, the recreationist wants scenic, hilly, or mountain land and cares little for fertile, productive flatlands.
6. The impact of the vacation home industry on local town treasuries is substantial. Vacation properties account for 30 percent or more of total real estate value in 47 towns. Farm properties account for a similar percentage in 39 towns.
7. The cost of town services to the vacation property owner is relatively low. In most cases there are no children to be educated and in some cases summer road maintenance is all that is necessary.
8. The landowner who wishes to subdivide into vacation properties has two choices: (1) Intensive development where lots are smaller but services greater, or (2) Extensive development where lots are larger and services minimal.

The intensive development has greatest potential in the highly developed recreation complex. The extensive development is more appropriate where land values are lower yet scenic and recreational values are high.
9. Before establishing a commercial recreation business, the landowner must consider:
 - (a) Personal long-range interests.
 - (b) Compatibility with other business enterprises
 - (c) Location
 - (d) Site characteristics, especially scenery and water
10. Like any other undertaking, the landowner must carefully consider all costs, benefits, and problems associated with recreational development. Recreation holds an opportunity for many Vermonters but only by proper planning can maximum benefits be realized.

HOW THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM WORKS

Talk by Donald Carrigan, Officer in Charge,
Consumer Food Programs, C&MS
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 1968

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak to your State ASCS conference.

My subject is the Federal Food Stamp Program and "How it Works."

Not being a speaker, I'm tempted to say that it works very well and just sit down, but I'll not do that.

It does work very well though, but perhaps it would work better if it had better understanding and more support.

The Food Stamp Program began in 1961 on a temporary basis. It became law in 1964 as the result of the Food Stamp Act of that year. Our own Senator Aiken had a good deal to do with the inception of the Program.

It is a cooperative program between the Federal and State governments and it replaces the commodity distribution program to needy families.

The Federal Agency responsible for the administration of the Food Stamp Program is the Consumer and Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

We are the same agency which administers the School Lunch Program and a host of grading and inspection programs which are of mutual benefit to consumers and farmers.

The State Agency responsible for running the Food Stamp Program is the State Welfare Agency. Although the Program is not a welfare program, but a food program, it is run by the Welfare Agency because they have much experience in meeting the needs of low income people. One of these happens to be food.

I said, a short time ago, that the Consumer and Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administers a number of programs which are of mutual benefit to consumers and farmers. The Food Stamp Program is one such program. Congress had this mutual benefit in mind when it passed the Food Stamp Act of 1964. It took recognition of the fact that it is in the National interest to have a healthy agricultural economy and well-fed citizenry. These two factors have a good deal in common. A well-fed citizenry needs the bounty of our farms and our farms need outlets for agricultural products. One is dependent on the other.

Unfortunately, there are many Americans who, because of low income, cannot afford to feed themselves properly. And also, one of our agricultural problems has traditionally been one of having too much. We all agree, of course, that having too much is more desirable than having too little. So, take these two conditions; an abundance of food in

this nation and a number of Americans who lack the income to maintain an adequate diet; put them in another context and you have the objectives of the Food Stamp Program.

As formally stated these objectives are: To increase the domestic consumption of agricultural products and to provide better diets for low income families.

The Food Stamp Program meets these two objectives by increasing the food buying power of eligible families.

I'd like to elaborate a little on how this is done. Families once they are found to be eligible, must purchase a certain amount of the Food Stamps. The amount they must purchase is based on the size and income of the family and is what that family would normally spend for food.

The amount of Food Stamps families must purchase, which as I said is based on family size and income, is just about the same amount they had been spending for food. In other words they are not saving any money. Many people believe that the Food Stamp Program is a means to save money. This is not true. One of the Program's objectives is to increase the domestic consumption of food. In order to meet this objective, we have to make sure people are spending as much for food stamps as they previously had spent for food. What we are doing, in effect, is freezing the families' food money. This food money in the form of food stamps is then added to, in the form of free or bonus coupons, thereby increasing the food buying power of the family. It could be termed a cost-sharing plan much the same as a farmer purchasing lime under your Agricultural Conservation Program.

When you increase someone's food buying power, what happens? Generally speaking, people buy more of those nutritious foods which are so often lacking in the diets of low-income families. They don't, if you will, load up on the so-called junk foods. All of the studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, show that Food Stamp families tend to buy more fruits and vegetables, more meat and more milk and dairy products.

On the local level we have a good deal of evidence that food stamp families are buying more nutritious foods. A milkman in St. Albans told me of one family whose milk purchases jumped from 8 to 20 quarts a week after the family started getting Food Stamps. A man in a small town in Franklin County said that since he started getting food stamps, he is "splurging" and giving his kids orange juice every morning rather than just on weekends as before. If this is "splurging," I'm all for it.

The Food Stamp Program has been called a subsidy program. Subsidy, a word which is familiar with us in agriculture. Who does it subsidize? Both the consumer, by raising his food buying power and the farmer, by increasing the domestic market for his products.

The Consumer and the Farmer, two groups vitally dependent on each other.

Talk by Senator George D. Aiken
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 15, 1968

It is a great pleasure to be with you again today.

Coming home to be with my many friends in ASCS is a refreshing and invigorating change from the hectic Washington scene.

I always enjoy getting your Annual County Reports.

They tell me what you have done locally and that is where ACP really counts - on each and every individual farm.

We have always had reason to be proud of the work of our committees in Vermont - since they were first set up as crop control committees under the Triple-A in 1933, and more importantly since Vermont became one of the first States in the entire Nation to establish conservation committees in 1936.

I was interested to read an Agriculture Department release the other day which stated that in the last five years nearly 95 percent of our Vermont farms have participated in the Agricultural Conservation Program, making Vermont the leading ACP State in the Nation.

This was scarcely news to me.

Vermont has been a leading State in ACP activities for many years.

And this isn't strange, because ACP supplies much of the conservation life-blood of Vermont agriculture.

The truth is, when you read Government reports in Washington these days, you might think that we never had any programs before 1961 - and most programs appear to have started in 1964, or thereafter.

It is certainly true that great progress has been made in Federal assistance to the States since 1961 but I sometimes wonder if we haven't been expecting too much in too short a time.

History is slow in the making, and so are landmark programs of lasting importance.

Enacting the necessary authorizing legislation, and then appropriating the funds to get the program under way, is just the beginning.

The administration of a new program, how it will actually work to help people, takes years of alteration in order to reach something like peak efficiency.

That is how ASCS, School Lunch and School Milk became the great programs they are today.

The practical benefits attained by ACP spring from the important nature of this cooperative Federal-State-Local endeavor to conserve and use wisely the sources of all wealth - our land and water.

These two factors have given us our vast forests and our wildlife, and from these have come our food, clothing and shelter.

Food was first hunted, then selected, improved upon and finally produced by careful cultivation.

These are the origins of the husbandry we know today as Agriculture.

Human society became increasingly complex, and new inventions and improved technologies have moved many of us farther and farther from the soil.

Today, we dig into the earth for coal, oil and gas, and some city people still think milk comes from the Supermarket.

Now we have our totally electrified urban centers of great private wealth, with vast pockets of poverty and municipal bankruptcy.

It is interesting to note that the farther we get from the big city, the greater the degree of municipal solvency and the greater the interest of people in nearby farms and rural living.

The people who cluster by the millions in the great urban centers realize they have lost something priceless in the process of working for large corporate enterprises.

That is the reasoning back of the burgeoning recreation industry of today and the soaring values of rural property.

City people want to get back to the source of all wealth - to the land and water - for brief vacations, for retirement living or to be gainfully employed.

At the same time, the growth of urban living and an attendant decline in farm operators has meant that our farms have had to produce more per acre and achieve absolute top performance as efficient sources of food.

In this effort ASCS has played a major role.

That is why, in 1967 alone, ACP helped a million farmers, ranchers and woodland owners to establish needed soil, water, woodland and wildlife conservation measures on some 50 million acres.

In Vermont during the last three years, according to official figures, we have planted thousands of acres of trees for forestry purposes, and improved many thousands more by selective cutting and approved methods.

Here in Vermont we have also established over one hundred thousand acres of permanent vegetative cover to control erosion or other land-use adjustments.

We have a good reason to be proud of what we have done and are doing.

To make work of this kind possible, your Congress has been very busy in recent years expanding and extending basic conservation laws to enable the Nation to make better use of its vast land and water resources.

What are some of these new or proposed programs?

(1) The Small Watershed Program of 1954, which we hope to expand this year or next to include many important new benefits.

(2) The Resource Conservation and Development Program.

(3) The Rural Water Program, now hopefully being expanded to provide additional services for rural communities.

(4) The Rural Job Development Act, which still awaits public hearings but a bill that could well be enacted so that when the war is over it may be rapidly implemented.

(5) The Land and Water Conservation Program.

There are other important Federal programs to aid in the more efficient and effective use of our natural resources, but I regard these five as the ones offering the greatest practical benefits most urgently needed in rural America.

The Small Watershed Program, originally designed to assist states in the Middle West to set up urgently needed small watershed programs, is going to be of increasing value to us in Vermont when the amendments, now before the Senate, are enacted.

As of now, we have one excellent example of Small Watershed development under this program in the Town of Ludlow.

Three dams are to be built there, primarily to protect the town from dangerous flooding but also to provide for some excellent recreational development that will bring many valuable tourist dollars into the area.

I understand ACP has played a major part in cost-sharing for this project.

The basic law of 1954, known as P.L. 566 or the Hope-Aiken Act, has been broadened by amendment several times to permit more comprehensive resource planning and use.

The 1968 amendments, which I am cosponsoring, are known as S. 1423.

These amendments provide long term cost-sharing assistance for planned conservation measures, Federal cost-sharing for water quality management, and additional funding for land easements and rights of way.

In short, the bill provides for cost-sharing to prevent erosion behind Small Watershed dams and downstream detention structures to dilute industrial waste that has been dumped in a stream.

Public hearings were held only recently, and your alert ASCS State Director, Al Heald, got me on the phone and told me of possible dangers to ACP.

As written, it appeared that another agency of government might very well use the provisions of this bill as a means of possibly usurping some very fundamental ACP prerogatives.

However, I think we have taken care of that.

As formally explained during the hearing, the bill fully recognizes the authority and responsibilities of ACP.

In a given small watershed the Soil Conservation Service will help the farmer develop his own conservation plan.

The ASC county committee will then negotiate an agreement with the farmer covering the cost-sharing practices to be used, administer the terms of the agreement and pay the farmer.

It was also suggested by some ACP friends here in Washington that ASCS should be allowed to obligate all its funds in advance over a ten-year period.

This, however, would not seem to be too practical because you would run out of money too quickly and would have no funds available for say, one-shot programs.

Besides, I doubt if Congress would approve this proposal.

After enactment of this small watershed amendment, I feel that there will be an increased use of the Small Watershed program in Vermont, and ACP will play a major role in the conservation practices thus developed.

The Resource Conservation and Development Program, which is now making conservation history in Vermont, really got started back in 1964.

At that time I insisted on getting an appropriation for the first ten pilot projects in the country.

One of these first ten projects was the White River R.C.&D., which is going ahead quite rapidly.

I understand that ACP through its cost-sharing has been a vital tool helping this important program.

In the last two years ACP has contributed some \$150,000 to this project, this sum being matched by local farmers.

R.C.& D. seems to be the ideal kind of cooperation we need.

This Vermont project includes some 23 towns in four counties - Addison, Orange, Rutland, and Windsor, - and I understand steps are now being taken to expand the program into a number of additional towns in Windsor.

R.C.& D. is regional cooperation in resource planning and development that utilizes all available Federal and State laws, every available local leader in private enterprise, every local farmer who wants to take part, and all necessary Local, State or Federal agencies.

The present projects in the White River District, when completed, are expected to bring more than half a million dollars of new income into the area annually.

Our Vermont participants in this regional project went into it wholeheartedly from the very start.

The result has been so outstanding that descriptions of the progress made by the White River project were recently sent out from Washington to every Soil Conservation Service office in the country.

There is another bill now before the Congress that is an outgrowth of the Rural Water Act of 1965.

However, it is broader than just that, as it covers farm credit generally in addition to the rural water program that has brought a modern rural water system to the Tri-Town District of Addison, Shoreham and Bridport.

Senator Mike Mansfield joined me and 90 other Senators in sponsoring this bill, which has been unanimously passed by the Senate and is now awaiting what we hope will be favorable action by the House.

Known as S. 1504, it contains amendments to provide statutory authority under the Farmers Home Administration for the accelerated development of rural communities.

These amendments are not to combat poverty but provide additional improvements to give rural residents the same kind of modern opportunities enjoyed by people living in the cities.

Briefly, S. 1504 would:

(1) Authorize loans to farmers for non-farm enterprises such as the conversion of farms or farm property to recreational use to supplement farm income or to establish other sideline enterprises on the farm.

(2) Increase the annual development grant money from \$50 million to \$150 million annually for water and sewer systems and raise the planning authority from \$5 million to \$25 million.

(3) Eliminate the \$450 million ceiling on FHA insured loans to farmers and rural groups, thus allowing FHA to expand this vital credit service to farmers as the need demands.

Another bill I am cosponsoring holds much promise for the industrial and commercial development of our rural areas once the war is over.

This is S. 2134, introduced last year by Senator Pearson of Kansas and Senator Harris of Oklahoma.

While no action has yet been taken on this measure, I have cosponsored it and will do my best to see if we can't get favorable action as soon as possible.

It is a broad bipartisan bill, for very good reason.

It provides some excellent tax incentives to attract new industries into rural areas, and contains a clause to guard against the pirating of industries from one area to another.

The ultimate effect will be to slow the migration of our young people from rural areas into the big cities in search of jobs.

The precise tax incentives include a 14 percent investment credit on machinery instead of the present 7 percent; a 7 percent investment credit on the cost of a new industry building; accelerated depreciation for machinery, equipment and buildings; and a deduction for salaries and wages paid to low income persons hired over a three-year period.

There are other provisions, but from the above it can be seen that for the purpose of rural development we would extend tax benefits comparable to those already enjoyed by business big and small in the large urban areas.

The Land and Water Conservation Act of 1963 is administered by the Interior Department, and the agency set up under this legislation of vital importance to Vermont is the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

Under this law, a special Land and Water Conservation Fund has been established.

Into this fund goes money from the sale of Federal surplus real property, the Federal motorboat fuels tax and Federal outdoor recreation entrance and user fees.

This money in turn is used to buy potential recreation land and water areas for Federal preservation, matching grants to States and through the States to local governments, to acquire other recreation sites or to develop recreation projects on land already owned by the local or State jurisdiction.

I checked up the other day and learned that since this law was enacted in 1963, BOR has made grants in Vermont totalling almost \$1.7 million to fund 54 different projects.

They range all the way from a \$2,000 grant for a four-acre project in Caledonia County to \$345,000 for expansion of recreation facilities in twelve State Parks.

While this admittedly is not of immediate concern to ASCS, it is an allied form of land and water conservation that supplements ACP activities and must be considered in any general planning for land use.

Getting back to ACP, it should be pointed out that the outlook for expansion of your activities is not good for the immediate future.

The Federal Budget crisis is very real, and Federal funding of all programs has been getting worse.

There just isn't enough money to go around, and every month we are spending over a billion dollars more than we have income to cover.

That is why the United States Senate voted for a tax increase.

That is why we also insisted on a cut in Federal spending.

We are in the midst of a tremendously costly war and we are continuing to live without any of the usual, necessary wartime controls over wages, prices and Federal spending.

However, the Congress tries to engage in selective Budget cutting, on the basis of need with priority given to the most important programs.

Congress has been very fair with appropriations affecting soil and water resources.

But once the Congress has appropriated funds, the Executive can step in and defer or cancel out expenditures.

While the outlook for Fiscal 1969 funds must necessarily be pessimistic at this time, I am hopeful that we can hold the line at the present level of ACP expenditures.

At present a move is under way to shut down county offices where there is not enough use of an office by farmers to justify the expense.

As an alternative, some offices are combined with other county offices.

In all, some 221 county units have been shut down.

A few months ago two counties in Vermont were scheduled for this action but we were able to persuade ASCS in Washington to allow them to continue, for the time-being at least.

We know these two offices, in Essex and Grand Isle Counties, are important.

We know they are providing useful service.

But we don't know for how long we can succeed in keeping our State exempt from an economy drive that is nationwide in scope.

Under the circumstances, we may for the time-being hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

I hope the worst won't materialize.

There have been some rays of hope lately but Peace will not come easily or soon.

In the meantime, we will tighten our belts, take our hard licks and bear up.

Then, when Peace does come as it surely will, there will be so much work for all that we will be right out straight for a long time to come.

That applies particularly to the work of the ACP.

Get ready.

WORKING WITH THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Talk by Gerald Greaves, Jr., Executive Secretary
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 16, 1968

I have been asked by Al Heald to speak to you on the topic, "Working with the State Council." This was Al's title and it confused me for a while as to just what I should cover. After considering it for a while it came to me that it is a very good title, one that points out the aims of all of our government agencies, Federal and State. We must work together to prevent overlapping of effort, for the Lord knows we have no effort to spare if we're to keep Vermont the type of place Vermonters want it to be.

This presentation is not to be of the earth shaking type, but more informational, that I might review with you four areas relating to the nature of the State Council.

1. Our name was changed on March 22.
2. I would like to cover the makeup of the State Council.
3. The primary business of the State Council.
4. Districts and their relationships with S.C.S.

On March 22, the Governor signed S. 1025, changing our name from the Soil Conservation Council to the Natural Resources Conservation Council. The bill also changed the name of the districts from Soil and Water Conservation Districts to Natural Resources Conservation Districts.

This change does more than change a name, for one thing, it allows the districts to concern themselves with preservation and conservation of all our natural resources, conceivably, even to the point of the conservation of peace and quiet. Actually this is becoming an increasing problem in some areas of the country and if we are to keep Vermont a pleasant place to live there may come a time when this aspect will have to be studied.

I know what is going on in the minds of some of you, you are saying to yourselves, "Districts have all they can do to keep up with the conservation of soil and water, and to try to get involved in all these other phases is going to weaken the effort that has already been started." This is not the case at all. If a district is busy with soil and water conservation, this is its primary task. There are districts, however, that have problems greater than the need for ditching, obstruction removal, pasture improvement, and what have you. Some of these districts have communities growing up on the fields they have already ditched and cleared. Proper use of land for development is the primary task for these districts.

Districts must reach out for work that needs to be done. They must be forward looking. We are constantly hearing that local government has to take the initiative on issues or someone else is going to do it for us. I cite town reappraisal, and school construction. If districts don't take the responsibility for the complete conservation of natural resources, we can expect that an agency will be formed that will take the responsibility, and it probably will cost us all a lot more money than if local people with knowledge of the area take over and do the job.

Actually, S. 1025 changes the make up of districts a lot more than it affects the Council. The districts, under S. 1025, may form supervisory unions for administrative purposes. These unions may hire a union conservationist to help implement district and supervisory union plans. This, to my thinking, would be especially helpful in the southern districts. Montpelier is a long way from Bennington and Brattleboro, we really need at least one man, preferably two, if we are to follow the original plan of setting up the unions. The State plan as it has been tentatively set up, would create four supervisory unions (1) Grand Isle, Franklin, Lamoille and Winooski Districts; (2) Otter Creek, Poultney-Mettawee and Bennington Districts; (3) Windham, Ottauquechee, and White River Districts; and (4) Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Districts. This plan was set up mainly as an idea, if it appears to the districts another arrangement would work better, this is certainly the approach we will want to take.

There is no question that districts have done a good job in the past. Some have done better than others, but here perhaps lies the need for the union conservationist. District supervisors are busy men, in most cases active farmers. Need I say more. There just isn't time for these men to get out in the field and oversee the work that is being done.

The second point I would like to cover is to bring you up to date on the make up of the State Council. The Council is set up pretty much by the Natural Resources Conservation Act, and the voting members of the Council are as follows:

Members by virtue of their office in state government are:

The Director of the Extension Service	- R. P. Davison
The Commissioner of Agriculture	- R. J. Branen
The Chairman of the State Water Resources Board, whose designated representative is the Commissioner of Water Resources	- Reinhold W. Thieme

Until S. 1025 was passed, four members of the State Council were appointed by the Governor. Two of these must be district supervisors. At present all four of the appointed members are supervisors. They are:

Emile Bordeaux	- Waterbury Center
Robert Graf	- Pawlet
Joseph Trombley	- Morrisville
R. L. Vallee	- St. Albans

In the future the Governor will continue to appoint supervisors as he has in the past, until supervisory unions are formed. As it is planned there will ultimately be four unions, and a supervisor will be elected from each of the unions to serve on the State Council. The unions that are formed will elect their Council member and the Governor will appoint the rest until all the unions are formed.

Besides the voting members of the Council there are advisory members. Here again S. 1025 has made a change, previously the only advisory member was an appointment made by the Secretary of Agriculture by invitation of the Council. In Vermont, this appointment has always gone to the State Conservationist, who is now Dave Grimwood.

Now, under our new law, we have three more advisory members. The Chairman of the State Fish and Game Board or his designated representative, the Chairman of the State Forests and Parks Board or his designated representative, Roland E. Keenan, and the Director of the Central Planning Office, Leonard Wilson.

These new members should keep the Council in touch with what's going on in the State in the field of natural resources.

With the make up of the Council brought up to date, what was it made up for in the first place?

The Council's primary business is to promote and assist district work. To accomplish this, at least four meetings are called per year to carry out the routine functions necessary for the operation of the districts, namely, to make district appointments and approve elected supervisors, to discuss district problems and projects, and make allocations of State grants. To keep the Council in closer contact with the districts, the Council hired Ed Bouton in 1965 as their first executive secretary. It's the executive secretary's responsibility to carry out the Council's program. He's responsible for recording the Council's actions, he oversees the elections, figures allocations, is responsible for the Council's budget, is the field representative of Council in district affairs, and is generally responsible to make timely decisions on behalf of the Council that the whole Council, by its nature cannot make. I can readily see from this presentation that the State Council's executive secretary is a very busy person!

To promote district work, the Council is in close contact with the National Association of Conservation Districts and is kept informed of problems that arise. Presently NACD is lobbying in Washington for funding of S.C.S. Districts all received the information I did from NACD, but it is encouraging to them to know that the whole State is united in the effort, it's a little extra push to get the job done.

Mentioning SCS brings up the last point I want to discuss with you, this is districts and their relationships with SCS.

Conservation districts are units of local government. In 1939 the State legislature passed the original Soil Conservation Act which created the State Soil Conservation Committee and permitted landowners in areas of three towns or more to form together; and upon a petition of 25 landowners or more, could request from the Committee, which is now the State Council, that a soil conservation district be formed. After holding hearings and referenda to determine the feasibility and the desire of the landowners, the Council proceeded to appoint two supervisors who helped organize the district. An election was held to elect three landowners within the district as district supervisors and a unit of local State government was formed.

The Soil Conservation Service was already formed at that time, but the Service was set up as a technical agency, not one to make decisions on local problems. This is where the districts came in - to make decisions

and to instruct the Federal agency as to where the emphasis should be placed, the districts decided what to do and the SCS people engineered the projects. The arrangement worked well and is still working well today, the only problem is, the two organizations have worked so closely together that to the layman SCS and conservation districts is a synonymous term. SCS is a Federal technical agency and the districts are local units of State government to direct the technical team.

In conclusion --

- I. S. 1025 makes Council and districts more concerned with natural resources as a whole - and allows districts to form supervisory unions.
- II. The State Council is made up of members from a number of natural resource agencies and generally district supervisors which keep all members well informed of all the agency's activities.
- III. The State Council works very closely with the districts assisting them with financial support and advice.
- IV. To make it clear in your minds the difference between SCS and conservation districts:

Districts decide what needs to be done.

SCS technical people plan the work.

Districts make arrangements to get the work completed and ACP, the Lord bless you, provides the funding which puts these improvements within the reach of the landowners.

MILK MARKETING PROBLEMS

Talk by Richard D. Aplin, Market Administrator
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 16, 1968

Every business has its problems. Milk marketing problems seem more difficult to those of us in the milk industry because they affect us directly. Milk marketing has been changing so rapidly that new problems arise from year to year. At this conference I want to discuss prices, progress, and principles in milk marketing as well as the current problems in order that you will have a better picture of the whole situation.

Prices

Milk prices will rise more this spring than had been expected only a few weeks ago. On March 20 the Secretary of Agriculture announced an increase of 28 cents a hundredweight in the support price for manufacturing milk. He also proposed changes in Federal milk orders to bring about the same increase in the prices for Class I milk.

The increase in the support price for manufacturing milk brings it to 90 percent of parity, which is the highest level that the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to maintain. The support price became \$4.28 for milk of average test (about 3.7 percent) on April 1, and it will continue at this level until April 1 of next year. The support price for 3.5 percent milk is \$4.12. This is the third significant increase in the support price level since early 1966. The total rise in the price in a little over two years amounts to about \$1.00 a hundredweight.

The Class I price under most Federal orders is set by a fixed differential above the price being paid for manufacturing milk at plants in Wisconsin and Minnesota. A year ago the differentials were increased by 20 cents a hundredweight to encourage the production of a sufficient supply of milk for the various markets. As a result of the national hearing in Memphis on February 23, the Department of Agriculture proposed to maintain the extra 20 cents in the differentials for another 12 months. This will have the effect of increasing Class I prices 28 cents. The same result is being accomplished in the northeastern markets by raising the specified Class I minimum prices by 28 cents. This will bring the Class I price under the Massachusetts-Rhode Island-New Hampshire order to \$6.67 in the 21st zone for a period of one year from May 1.

These changes in class prices have caused the New England Milk Price Forecast Committee to revise its earlier estimates of blended prices upward. It is now forecast that blended prices in the 21st zone of our market will average \$5.62 for 1968. This would be 37 cents above the average for 1967 and \$1.15 above the average for 1965.

Progress

Two important changes were made in the order for our own market in 1967. The first of these changes was the adoption of a seasonal production incentive plan, which is usually called the Louisville Plan, on April 1. Until that time the Class I price was changed seasonally to encourage more even production of milk for the market. Now the same purpose is accomplished by making

no seasonal changes in the Class I price but withholding certain amounts of money from the March-June pools and distributing this money to producers in the August-November pools. The blended price is reduced by 10 cents in March, 20 cents in April, and 30 cents in May and June. In 1967 the distribution of the fund thus accumulated, plus interest thereon, increased the blended price by 25 cents in August, 31 cents in September and October, and 18 cents in November.

The expansion of the Massachusetts-Rhode Island marketing area to include southern New Hampshire and the remainder of Essex County, Massachusetts, increased the population of the marketing area by about 600,000 people or approximately 11 percent. Nearly all of the producer milk added to the pool by this extension is utilized as Class I milk. Accordingly, the Class I percentage in our pool has been raised by a few points and the blended price by several cents a hundredweight.

Problems

A decline in the consumption of milk and milk products in the country as a whole is a major problem for the dairy industry. A recent report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture disclosed that the average diet of persons in the United States is poorer than it was several years ago. Lessened consumption of milk and fresh fruits and vegetables was the principal cause. A national conference is being held in Washington next week to discuss what can be done to promote the consumption of milk and dairy products and to improve the national diet.

The need for research and development of new products and increased advertising and promotional efforts is apparent. Greater support for the American Dairy Association and for the National Dairy Council is being obtained in various parts of the country. This is particularly true in the midwest and in the southwest.

In our own market over 70 percent of the producers support the American Dairy Association at the rate of 2 cents a hundredweight on their milk. Authorizations for deductions from producer milk checks to support ADA are obtained in our market principally through the use of "positive letters." Under this method handlers are authorized to make the deduction after proper notice is given to the producer and he registers no objection. The New York-New Jersey market has adopted the positive letter method as of this month, which should increase greatly the producer investment in promotion in that market.

More than 85 percent of the producers in our market support the Dairy Council. All producers in Vermont and Maine support it through the milk taxes in effect in their States.

Proposals are being made to raise the rate of support for these promotional organizations through voluntary action by cooperatives. The National Milk Producers Federation is supporting a bill in Congress which would permit a provision in Federal milk orders for funds to be withheld from market pools for the research and development and increased advertising and promotion of milk and its products.

A big new cloud on the horizon of milk markets is the development of imitation products. The extent to which filled milk and imitation milk will be accepted by consumers as substitutes for real milk is unknown. Opinions differ widely on this subject. These substitute products are being offered in 26 Federal order markets. The most recent report shows that sales of these substitutes are below one percent of the sales of Class I milk in all except two of the markets. The greatest sale of the substitute products has been obtained in the Central Arizona market where they are now equal to about 7 percent of the sales of Class I milk. To date no filled milk or imitation milk has been offered for sale in the Massachusetts-Rhode Island-New Hampshire market.

How to classify and price skimmed milk and nonfat dry milk used in the production of filled milk is a subject of much discussion currently in Federal order markets. This subject was discussed at considerable length in a four-day hearing in February, and that hearing is to be resumed on April 23.

A better alignment of milk prices between New England and the New York-New Jersey market is a matter of concern to the industry. In recent years the Class I price in the New England market has averaged about 30 cents higher than the Class I price in the New York-New Jersey market. Currently the difference is frozen at 28 cents under the fixed prices specified for each market. The blended prices in our market have tended to average about 20 cents above those for New York-New Jersey in recent years. The difference was 18 cents in 1967.

The difference in blended prices has been sufficient to attract New York milk to our market more rapidly than the milk is needed here. In February of this year 1,390 New York producers were supplying milk to our pool plants as compared to 1,060 in February last year. The percentage of our supply coming from farms in New York has risen from slightly more than 15 percent a year ago to nearly 19 percent now.

A proposal by cooperative associations in the New England and New York markets for a closer alignment of prices and a return to formula pricing for Class I milk was taken up in a December hearing. No decision has been reached as a result of that hearing.

Litigation over farm location differentials in our market is now in its second year. The U. S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled against these differentials in our market. This decision was appealed and the case was argued before the Circuit Court of Appeals in early November. This is the same Circuit Court that ruled against similar differentials as set up in the New York-New Jersey order. There is a parallel case in the Connecticut market which was tried before the U. S. District Court for northern New York in October. No decision has been issued as yet on that case.

The issue before the Courts is whether the Secretary of Agriculture has authority to establish differentials which are based upon the location of the producer's farm relative to the market. The cases are brought into Court by distant producers who have not received the differentials. Representatives of producers near the market who do receive the differential have been permitted by the Courts to intervene as active parties in the case. The long delay which is inevitable in reaching a final decision in the Courts

on this issue is unfortunate. The sharpness of the dispute between distant and nearby producers also is unfortunate because this is the only issue in which they do not have a common interest.

The money in dispute is being impounded each month under an order of the Court pending the final decision as to whom it belongs. The eventual distribution of the fund to producers will cause a problem to the Market Administrator.

Principles

In considering the current problems that we have we should not lose sight of the fact that their eventual solution will be made easier because of some essential principles which have been established in our milk market. The Federal order program which has been developed over a period of 34 years through the joint efforts of milk marketing cooperatives and the U. S. Department of Agriculture provides a relatively stable situation while we struggle with the new problems.

A known and uniform minimum price to be paid by all dealers is an essential feature of a stable milk market. This feature has been achieved through a classified price plan that applies to every handler who receives milk from producers and which is supported by a thorough audit program. In recent years when there has been intensive competition among dealers, as a result of new methods of distributing milk, the effect of this competition has not been passed back to producers through lower prices.

An equitable sharing of the Class I sales and of the reserve supply of Class II milk among all producers has been achieved through a marketwide pool. This feature of our program has enabled all producers to share in increased sales of fluid milk which have been obtained. It has made possible the concentration of the reserve supply in the relatively few plants where it can be handled efficiently.

A third benefit of the present program in our market is that there is available complete information on the current receipts and uses of milk in the market. This information is essential to solving our problems and making further progress in obtaining for producers the best prices which the market will sustain in the long run.

TRENDS IN ACP

Excerpts from Talk by Warren Myers, Chief
Land Use and Conservation Branch, Farmer Programs Division, ASCS
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 16, 1968

We in ASCS have worked at conservation for many years and there is still much which needs to be done. The challenge for meeting the conservation needs of this country is greater now than it has ever been before. Rural poverty is a big problem throughout the country and all programs, including the Agricultural Conservation Program, need revision from time to time to meet these problems.

States are now holding ACP Program Development Meetings, and there is a need for frank recommendations for the improvement of ACP. The new conservation needs inventory is not yet complete, and 1969 funds to States will probably not be based on the new conservation needs inventory. 1970 will be the first year the revised CNI will be available for the allocation of funds to States.

All States are urged to consider the development of special projects to assist low income farmers to stay on the farm and incur and improve their livelihood in rural areas. While there is no set procedure on these special projects, these points were emphasized (1) these projects be developed and worked out as are needed on a local basis, (2) in order to make a successful special project, community interest is important, and (3) all States should hold funds in reserve to be used only for special projects when they are developed. It is hoped that there will be more special projects in Vermont in 1969.

Mr. Myers then showed a slide series which gave excellent illustrations of special projects, how they were developed, and how they are working in other States.

DISCUSSION OF 4-H TRACTOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Remarks by John Merchant, State 4-H Leader
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 16, 1968

I will comment briefly on a recent ruling by the Department of Labor regarding the hiring of youths 16 years and younger for work on the farm involving the operation of tractors and other specified machinery.

The Extension Service through the 4-H program is establishing training courses in areas of the State where a need is shown to teach these young people the proper operation of tractors. This will enable these young folks to become eligible for work on the farm involving the use of tractors and other specified equipment. Schools have already been set up in some parts of the State, and other training courses will be established as the need develops.

ACP, CAP, CRP, DEFENSE, TAP and COUNTY WORKLOAD

(Prepared by A. F. Heald for Discussion at State ASCS Conference
Burlington, Vermont - April 16, 1968)

ACP

1969 Recommendations

The 1969 Program Planning Meetings just held were very successful. We are distributing a summary of the recommendations and will discuss them briefly here today.

Your recommendations will be summarized by the State Committee and forwarded to the Washington Office for their consideration.

1967 and 1968 Programs

Counties have just forwarded statements on the status of their ACP funds for these two years. Copies of these are being distributed and they will be discussed today.

CAP

The participation in Vermont is as follows:

County	1966		1967	
	Number Agreements	Acres Diverted	Number Agreements	Acres Diverted
Addison	0	0	1	30
Bennington	6	178	3	125
Caledonia	1	55	2	32
Chittenden	5	137	3	88
Essex	0	0	1	85
Franklin	1	67	2	60
Grand Isle	2	30	6	146
Lamoille	1	7	0	0
Orange	0	0	8	106
Orleans	1	10	3	153
Rutland	6	196	2	67
Washington	1	40	4	43
Windham	1	28	0	0
Windsor	0	0	5	117
Total	25	748	40	1052

Contract payments were \$12,575 in 1966 and \$19,537 in 1967.

The Congress did not continue the program for 1968. Our job is to see that those who have contracts carry them through to completion.

CRP

We have 742 contracts on 23,142 acres still in effect for 1968.

Our job here is to see that these contracts are maintained, that the necessary compliance work is done and that timely payments are made.

Defense

We must continue to plan for and carry out an active USDA defense program. Since ASCS personnel are Chairman and Secretary of the State and County Defense Boards, we especially must do our part.

Here is a record of County Defense Board meetings held recently:

<u>County</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968 to date</u>	<u>Date Last Meeting</u>
Addison	2	1	February 12, 1968
Bennington	2	1	February 12, 1968
Caledonia	3	2	April 2, 1968
Chittenden	3	1	February 5, 1968
Essex	4	1	January 18, 1968
Franklin	5	2	April 1, 1968
Grand Isle	3	1	January 9, 1968
Lamoille	2	2	February 5, 1968
Orange	4	1	February 19, 1968
Orleans	5	1	February 13, 1968
Rutland	4	1	February 5, 1968
Washington	3	1	February 9, 1968
Windham	2	1	February 5, 1968
Windsor	4	1	February 7, 1968
Total	46	17	

Counties have just concluded a reporting exercise which has given them practice in making the necessary studies after an attack and preparing the reports that are required. All counties completed the report on time and did a very good job.

Nationally, ASCS determined that county office managers would be chairmen of county defense boards unless, because of some unusual circumstances, they could not function in this capacity. In Vermont, we had had an exception to this ruling and our county boards have been chaired by county committeemen. We have been requested to change this so that, starting July 1, county office managers will be chairmen of county defense boards. It is expected in the transition period that the county ASC chairman will continue to work closely with the office manager to carry out defense assignments.

TAP

State and County Technical Action Panels were set up by the Secretary of Agriculture to assist rural people and rural communities identify the services they need for economic, social, and cultural growth and locate and secure the needed services. They also assist individuals and groups with economic development plans, community development projects, inventories, and surveys.

The State Technical Action Panels are composed of the heads of USDA agencies and of other Federal and State agencies responsible for the operation of their respective programs in each state. The State Executive Director of ASCS is a member of this panel.

County Technical Action Panels are panels of USDA agency representatives and representatives of other Federal, State and local agencies responsible for the administration of their respective programs in each county. The county office manager of ASCS is on the County Technical Action Panel.

The Outreach Program and examples of work done in Vermont were discussed in detail at the recent Program Planning Meetings so I will not discuss it further at this time.

Workload

Copies of material on this subject follow.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS *
All Counties
1969 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM **

A PROGRAM POLICIES

The general program principles are outlined in the current State or County Practice Handbook. What are your comments on these principles?

Principle 1 - One county voted to have the county technical group work on goals, objectives and priorities and present same at a future program planning meeting, and voted for the other principles as in 1968. 13 counties voted for the same program principles as in 1968.

B PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

In keeping with the program policies, what practices and cost-share rates are recommended for 1969? (Use last year's practices as a basis for discussion. When establishing cost-shares for mineral practices, make a thorough comparison of contract costs vs. cash practices and use this in determining the cost-share rates.)

Practice A-2 - New Seeding

Ten counties voted to offer the same practice as in 1968; one voted to include 15-15-15; one voted to raise the cost-share for phosphorus and potash; one county voted to require one ton of lime instead of two in condition (3); and one county voted to increase the limit on obstruction removal to \$40 per acre.

Cost-share: All counties agreed to cost-share mixed fertilizer, super-phosphate, and potash on a 2/3-1/3 basis, with the farmer paying the 2/3. See table below for obstruction removal.

Table of 1968 Rates with Recommendations for 1969
for Practice A-2(i)

County	Obstruction Removal		
	Actual	1968	Proposed 1969
Addison	40%	NTE \$25 A or \$150 farm	
Bennington	40%	NTE \$25 A or \$200 farm	
Caledonia	40%	NTE \$25 A or \$100 farm	
Chittenden	40%	NTE \$25 A or \$75 farm	
Essex	40%	NTE \$20 A or \$120 farm	
Franklin	40%	NTE \$15 A or 5 A	
Grand Isle	40%	NTE \$25 A	
Lamoille	40%	NTE \$20 A or \$100 farm	
Orange	40%	NTE \$20 A or \$120 farm	
Orleans	40%	NTE \$25 A or \$100 farm	
Rutland	40%	NTE \$25 A or \$100 farm	
Washington	40%	NTE \$25 A or \$100 farm	
Windham	40%	NTE \$25 A or \$200 farm	
Windsor	40%	NTE \$25 A (NTE \$40 A in 1969)	

*For review at the 1968 State ASCS Conference.

**The questions listed were discussed at the March 1968 Program Planning Meetings.

Practice A-4 - Lime

13 counties voted for the same practice as in 1968. One county voted to change item (2) to read: "By not later than six years or 1975" instead of "By not later than 1971." (Present wording allows two years to get land in sod.)

Cost-share: See table below.

Table on 1968 Rates with Recommendations for 1969
for Practice A-4

County	Lime		County	Lime	
	Gov. % of BS Cost	Actual 1968 &		Gov. % of BS Cost	Actual 1968 &
	Proposed 1969			Proposed 1969	
Addison	49		Lamoille	46	
Bennington	49		Orange	50	
Caledonia	50		Orleans	45	
Chittenden	50		Rutland	47	
Essex	47		Washington	50	
Franklin	48		Windham	PO	
Grand Isle	50		Windsor	50	

Practice A-5 - Stripcropping

12 counties voted to offer the same practice as in 1968, and two once more agreed not to offer the practice.

Cost-share: 12 counties voted for the same cost-share as in 1968.

Practice A-7 - Planting Trees

11 counties voted to continue the practice as in 1967; and one county voted that the wording should be changed to read "to prevent wind or water erosion." (Note: The National Handbook has Practice A-8 for this purpose.) Another county voted to delete the statement referring to plantations established exclusively for Christmas tree production; and one county voted to increase the cost-sharing for fencing to 50¢ for 2-strand and 60¢ for 3-strand and to add a cost-share for site preparation of 50% of the cost not to exceed \$1 1/4 an acre.

Cost-share: See table on page 3.

Practice B-1 - Improving Hay or Pasture

All counties voted to offer this practice as in 1968 with changes in cost-sharing as shown under Practice A-2. In addition, one county voted to offer 15-15-15, and another voted to increase the payment rate, if possible.

Cost-share: All counties agreed to cost-share mixed fertilizer, super-phosphate, and potash on a 2/3-1/3 basis, with the farmer paying the 2/3.

Table of 1968 Rates with Recommendations for 1969
for Practices A-7 and B-10

County	Planting Trees		Woodland Improvement Cost-share (a)	
	Actual 1968	& Proposed 1969	Actual 1968	& Proposed 1969
Addison	60% NTE \$25 M		70% NTE \$15 A	
Bennington	60% NTE \$25 M		70% NTE \$12 A	
Caledonia	60% NTE \$25 M	<u>1/</u>	70% NTE \$15 A	<u>1/</u>
Chittenden	60% NTE \$25 M		70% NTE \$12 A	
Essex	60% NTE \$25 M		70% NTE \$12 A	
Franklin	60% NTE \$25 M		70% NTE \$15 A	
Grand Isle	60% NTE \$25 M		70% NTE \$15 A	
Lamoille	50% NTE \$20 M	<u>2/</u>	70% NTE \$12 A	<u>2/</u> (NTE \$15 A in 1969)
Orange	\$25 M		70% NTE \$15 A	<u>3/</u>
Orleans	60% NTE \$15 M	<u>4/</u>	70% NTE \$15 A	<u>4/</u>
Rutland	\$25 M		70% NTE \$12 A	
Washington	\$20 M	<u>5/</u>		<u>6/</u>
Windham	60% NTE \$20 M	<u>7/</u>	50% NTE \$12 A	<u>7/</u>
Windsor	60% NTE \$20 M		70% NTE \$15 A	

1/ \$250 per farm or \$500 per person for A-7, B-10 and F-1(c).
 2/ 5 acres each for tree planting and TSI, NTE \$300 to any one owner.
 3/ 25 acres per farm.
 4/ \$450 per owner for forestry practices, regardless of number of farms involved.
 5/ Limit of \$150.
 6/ 70% NTE \$15 A for thinning, removing, and killing and NTE \$10 A for aerial spraying, and 50% NTE \$15 A for pruning, with a farm limit of \$300.
 7/ 20 acre limit on forestry practices.

Practice B-6 - Springs or Seeps

13 counties voted for the same practice as in 1968. One county voted to increase cost-share (b) from 40% to 50%.

Cost-share: All 14 counties voted for a cost-share of 50% of the cost. This is a change in cost-share (b) for one county as noted above.

Practice B-7 - Farm Ponds

Ten counties voted for the same practice as in 1968. One county voted to increase the cost-sharing for vegetative cover to 50% of the cost not to exceed \$50 an acre and to increase cost-sharing for fencing to 50¢ for 2-strand and 60¢ for 3-strand. Another county voted to increase cost-share (d) from 40% to 50%. One county voted to include a fire protection clause, and one county voted to add a cost-share of \$50 for dry hydrants.

Cost-share: See table on page 4.

Table of 1968 Rates with Recommendations for 1969
for Practice B-7

County	Farm Ponds	
	Cost-share (a)	Actual 1968 and Proposed 1969
Addison	40%	
Bennington	40%	1/
Caledonia	40%	
Chittenden	40%	NTE \$100 dug or \$300 dam
Essex	40%	2/
Franklin	40%	NTE \$150 per pond
Grand Isle	40%	
Lamoille	40%	3/
Orange	40%	4/
Orleans	40%	5/
Rutland	40%	6/
Washington	40%	7/
Windham	40%	6/
Windsor	40%	NTE \$500 per farm 8/

1/ Total cost-sharing for the practice NTE \$300 per farm.
 2/ Owner must have had at least 10 animal units on farm during previous year.
 3/ Total cost-sharing for the practice NTE \$150 per farm.
 4/ Total cost-sharing for the practice NTE \$400 per farm. To be eligible, primary source of income is agricultural products.
 5/ Total cost-sharing for the practice NTE \$200 for dug or \$300 for dam ponds.
 6/ Total cost-sharing for the practice NTE \$200 per farm.
 7/ Total cost-sharing for the practice NTE \$400 per farm. If Practice B-8 is needed, it will be in addition to this limit.
 8/ To be eligible, farmer must have livestock or orchard.

Practice B-8 - Pipelines

13 counties voted for the same practice as in 1968, and one county voted to authorize cost-sharing for the installation of fire hydrants in connection with farm ponds.

Cost-share: As in 1968, 13 counties voted for a 50% cost-share, and the remaining county which had a 40% cost-share in 1968 voted to raise it to 50% in 1969.

Practice B-10 - Woodland Improvement

Ten counties voted for the same practice as in 1968. One county voted to delete the words "and removing" in cost-share (a); another, to increase the cost-share limit from \$12 an acre to \$15 an acre; and one county voted to reduce pruning from 100 trees to 50-60 trees per acre. The remaining county voted to increase the cost-share for fencing to 50¢ for 2-strand and 60¢ for 3-strand and to add woodland fire pond at 40% of the cost NTE \$100 per pond.

Cost-share: See table on page 3.

Practice C-1 - Sod Waterways

All counties voted to continue this practice as in 1968.

Cost-share: 13 counties voted to continue the present cost-share. One county voted to increase the cost-share for vegetative cover to 50% of the cost NTE \$50 an acre.

Practice C-5 - Diversion Ditches

All counties voted for this practice as in 1968.

Cost-share: 13 counties voted for the same cost-share as in 1968. One county voted to increase the cost-share for vegetative cover to 50% of the cost NTE \$50 an acre.

Practice C-7 - Channel Lining

13 counties voted to continue this practice and one county not to offer it, as in 1968.

Cost-share: As in 1968, 11 counties voted for a 50% cost-share and one for 40%. The other county voted for the following cost-shares: (a) 50% of the structure cost, (b) 50% of the cost of vegetative cover NTE \$50 an acre, (c) 50¢ per rod for 2-strand fence and 60¢ a rod for 3-strand fence.

Practice C-8 - Streambank Protection

All counties voted for the same practice as in 1968.

Cost-share: Ten counties voted for a 50% cost-share for (a) and (b); three counties voted for 50% for (a) and \$3 a tree for (b); and one county voted for 50% for (a) and \$3 a tree 12-23" and \$4 a tree 24" and over for (b). These are the same cost-shares as in 1968.

Practice C-9 - Open Drainage

All 14 counties voted to continue the practice as in 1968.

Cost-share: As in 1968, 13 counties voted to offer 50% of the cost, with one of these voting to increase cost-sharing for vegetative cover to 50% of the cost NTE \$50 an acre. The remaining county voted to change the cost-share from 40% to 50% of the cost.

Practice C-10 - Tile Drainage

All 14 counties voted for the same practice as in 1968.

Cost-share: As in 1968, 13 counties voted for a 50% cost-share. The remaining county voted to change the cost-share from 40% to 50% in 1969.

Practice C-11 - Land Grading

13 counties voted to continue this practice as in 1968, and one voted to add natural ponding to the practice description.

Cost-share: As in 1968, 13 counties voted for a 50% cost-share. The remaining county voted for an increase from 40% to 50%.

Practice F-1 - Special Conservation Practices

13 counties wish to offer special practices under this provision. One voted not to do so.

Practice F-1(a) - Green Manure

One county which offered the practice in 1968 voted to continue it in 1969. (Windham County)

The other county offering it in 1968 voted to leave it to the discretion of the county committee in 1969. (Caledonia County)

Practice F-1(b) - Mulching

Four counties which offered this practice in 1968 voted to continue it in 1969. (Addison, Bennington, Grand Isle and Windham Counties)

Practice F-1(c) - Wild Tree Improvement

Five counties offering this practice in 1968 voted to continue it in 1969. (Caledonia, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans and Rutland Counties)

One county offering it in 1968 voted to extend shearing and shaping to plantation trees in 1969. (Washington County)

Another county offering it in 1968 voted to add an item (e) fertilizing as follows: (1) Include fertilizer as item of cost; (2) Authorize cost-sharing once in 5 years on given acre; (3) Where fertilizer is applied, increase cost-sharing to 70% of the cost NTE \$25 an acre. (Essex County)

Practice F-1(d) - Red-headed Pine Sawfly Control

Chittenden County has requested this new practice:

Federal cost-share: 50% of the cost of treatment, not to exceed \$4 per acre.

All trees on infested acreage shall be treated at the dosage and rate of insecticide recommended and in the method prescribed by the Department of Forests and Parks.

Practice F-1(e) - Dry Hydrant

Windsor County voted to request the addition of this practice with a cost-share of 50% of the cost not to exceed \$75.

Practice F-2 - County Conservation Practices

All counties voted to offer this provision.

Practice F-2(a) - Super with Manure

14 counties voted to continue this practice as in 1968.

Cost-share: All counties agreed to cost-share superphosphate on a 2/3-1/3 basis, with the farmer paying the 2/3.

Practice F-3 - New Conservation Problems

None of the counties voted to offer this provision.

Practice F-4 - Emergency Conservation Measures

None of the counties voted to offer this provision.

Practice G-2 - Shallow Water Areas

Eight counties which offered this practice in 1968 voted to continue it in 1969. The remaining six counties once more voted not to offer it.

Practice G-3 - Wildlife Ponds

11 counties offering this practice in 1968 voted to offer it again in 1969. Essex, Washington and Windham Counties once again voted not to offer the practice.

Cost-share: Eight counties voted for the same cost-share as in 1968. One county voted to increase the cost-share from 40% to 50%; one voted to add a cost-share of \$50 per hydrant for dry hydrants; and one voted to increase the cost-share for vegetative cover to 50% NTE \$50 an acre, and to cost-share fencing at 50¢ a rod for 2-strand and 60¢ for 3-strand, and to eliminate woven wire fence.

Practice G-4 - Other Wildlife Practices

13 counties voted to offer this provision and one county voted not to do so.

Practice G-4(a) - Wildlife Land Management

Ten counties voted to offer this practice as in 1968. One county recommended changing the first line of the second paragraph to read: "This practice is applicable only to farming units and includes" instead of the present "This practice includes." One voted to have their technical group write the practice up for that county.

Cost-share: Ten counties voted for the same cost-share as in 1968. One voted to limit cost-sharing to \$100 per farm; one voted to restrict cost-sharing to \$3 per acre and not over \$150 per farm and to stipulate that land in CR is not eligible for this practice. The remaining county is awaiting technical group action in writing the practice.

Practice H - Beautification Conservation Practices

Six counties which offered this provision in 1968 voted to include it again; Grand Isle County which did not offer it in 1968 voted to do so in 1969; six counties voted not to offer the provision; and the remaining county made no decision.

Practice H-1 - Seeding Borrow Pits

Five counties offering this practice in 1968 voted to continue it in 1969. (Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Orleans and Rutland Counties)

One county voted to offer the practice for the first time. (Grand Isle County)

Practice H-2 - Roadside TSI

Five counties offering this practice in 1968 voted to continue it in 1969. (Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, and Orleans Counties)

One county voted to offer it for the first time. (Grand Isle County)

Practice H-3 - Border Plantings

Four counties offering this practice in 1968 voted to offer it again in 1969. (Bennington, Caledonia, Franklin and Orleans Counties)

One county voted to offer it for the first time. (Grand Isle County)

C OPERATING POLICIES

1 What arrangements should be made for enrolling farmers in the program?

13 counties voted for farm-to-farm visits and one for sign-up meetings. All 14 counties will permit sign-up in the county office.

2 A recent survey shows that there are over 1,000 farms in our State that did not participate in ACP during 1960-1965. How do we reach this group?

Four counties recommended making sure that all farmers are contacted by committeemen; one reported that the county office contacts all farmers not contacted in the field; one county recommended giving each farmer a fair chance and believed changing practice F-1(c) would help; one county reported that enough is now being done to reach farmers who wish to enroll; and seven counties had no suggestions.

C 3 What are your suggestions in connection with breaking down the use of program funds?

- a From State to county - Nine counties voted for the present formula of 30% participation, 30% cropland, 30% animal units, and 10% woodland. One county recommended allocation based on needs with consideration being given to extra cost of materials in some counties. Three counties voted for participation basis; and one county recommended 30%, 30%, 30% as at present with the 10% based on forestry practices carried out.
- b From county to farmers - Eight counties recommended leaving the decision to the county committee; three voted for the methods used in the past; and one recommended farm limits and equal chance. The remaining counties had no comment.

4 What should our soil test requirements be? (Note: Effective 2-1-68, we can no longer furnish a soil sampling service to farmers free of charge.)

Counties made the following comments:

Addison - Same requirements as in the past. Soil sampling service to be made available with farmer paying cost.

Caledonia - 1 ton lime per acre unless pH is 6.5 for new seeding, 6.0 for improving hayland.

Chittenden - Soil testing will be performed by other agencies.

Essex - 2 tons lime per acre unless test shows otherwise. Quick test.

Franklin - Drop soil sampling service as several companies offer it. Same requirements - 1 ton per acre for fertilizer and obstruction removal unless test shows none needed.

Grand Isle - Soil test required for over 5 tons lime. Not required for fertilizer.

Orange - 2 tons lime per acre unless test shows lesser amount needed. Offer soil sampling with farmer paying cost.

Orleans - 1 ton lime per acre unless test shows lesser need. Farmers to be responsible for having tests taken.

Rutland - 1 ton lime per acre for fertilizer unless test shows no need.

Washington - Make soil sampling available on reimbursable basis. 2 tons lime per acre on acreage on which mixed fertilizer is to be used under ACP or must have been limed in one of last two years or soil test must show lime not needed.

Windham - Soil test required for use of mixed fertilizer unless lime is used currently or test shows pH of 6.5.

C 4 Windsor - Lime required to be eligible for fertilizer unless soil test indicates otherwise. Soil sampling not to be offered.

5 Conservation Materials and Services

a Should we continue to furnish conservation materials under contract in 1969 as we did in 1968?

All 14 counties voted "Yes."

<u>LIME</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Size of Bag</u>	<u>Type of Delivery</u>			<u>FOB Plant</u>
			<u>Bagged</u>	<u>F.Y.</u>	<u>Bagged Siding</u>	
Addison	80	x			x	x
Bennington	80	x			x	x
Caledonia	80	x	x		x	
Chittenden	80	x			x	
Essex	80	x			x	
Franklin	80	x			x	
Grand Isle	80	x			x	
Lamoille	80				x	x
Orange	80	x	x	x	x	x
Orleans	100	x		x	x	
Rutland	80	x			x	x
Washington	80	x		x	x	x
Windham						x
Windsor	80	x			x	

SUPER Type of Delivery - Three counties voted for bagged siding; six for bagged farmyard; one for both bagged siding and bagged farmyard; two for bagged farmyard and FOB plant; and two counties voted to leave the decision to the county committee after the bids are in.

MIXED Kind of Material - All 14 counties voted to offer 0-10-30, 0-25-25 and 15-15-15, with one of them using the purchase order plan.

Type of Delivery - One county voted for farmyard; nine counties voted for both farmyard and FOB plant, with one of these requesting consideration for offering liquid fertilizer under contract; and three voted to leave the decision to the county committee after the bids are in.

POTASH Type of Delivery - Two counties voted for farmyard; eight counties voted for both farmyard and FOB plant; two counties voted to leave the decision to the county committee after the bids are in; and one county voted not to offer this material. The remaining county will use the purchase order plan.

C 5 b Cost-share Rate for Purchase Orders (and Cash Practices)

Fertilizer. In the past some counties have set up cash practice payment rates for fertilizer (thus purchase orders) higher than for contract materials. Should this be continued?

One county voted "Yes"; one voted "No"; four recommended the same rates for both; two recommended the same rates as last year; and six counties made no comment.

c Indicate the type of material or service to be furnished under the Purchase Order Plan:

<u>Kind of Material or Service</u>	<u>Reply</u>	<u>No. Counties</u>
(1) Planting forest trees	Yes	13
	No	1
(2) Woodland improvement	Yes	14
	No	0
(3) Earth moving	Yes	14
	No	0
(4) Lime	Yes	9
	No	5
(5) Mixed Fertilizer	Yes	10
	No	4
(6) Other (specify)		
Superphosphate and Potash	Yes	1
Superphosphate	Yes	1
Red-headed Pine Sawfly Control	Yes	1

D ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS

One county recommended that representatives of lime companies and others should be eligible to attend meetings.

Vermont ASCS State Office
April 1968

SUMMARY OF TECHNICAL GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS*
WHICH DIFFER FROM THOSE MADE BY
COMMUNITY COMMITTEEMEN
All Counties

1969 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM

B PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

Practice F-1(c) - Wild Tree Improvement

Remove restriction of five acres per farm - Essex County.

Practice G-4(a) - Wildlife Land Management

Use State practice with limit to be set by county committee at a later date - Essex County.

*For review at the 1968 State ASCS Conference.

Vermont State Office
April 1968

WORKLOAD VERIFICATION STUDY
(for discussion at State Conference, April 16, 1968)

The workload verification study is carried out by 160 counties in the country. There are 3080 counties in the Continental United States, and 2880 county offices. The counties selected keep a daily record of all personnel paid from administrative funds, time spent on each program and units completed for each program. Also included in this study is time spent for each activity for which there are no units, such as General Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Committee Elections, USDA Defense Activities, TAP, Public Relations, etc.

The workload verification study has been going on since 1962. Counties in the study since then are Franklin, Addison and Windham. Washington County has been selected to carry on the study for the next two years.

Counties are selected by the Area Director on the basis of a random sample within criteria established by the workload committee. The workload committee consists of personnel from DASCO, BU, PM, OA and Area offices. Some states do not have any counties in the study, whereas some have more than one county in it. Counties selected remain in the study for 2 years, one-half of them being replaced each year.

One person in the county office prepares the daily record for committeemen.

The report is submitted quarterly to the State office, where it is reviewed and then forwarded to the Washington office.

The study is used to determine how long it takes to do a certain job. It is used for making budget allocations, establishing personnel ceilings and classifying county office positions. It gives Washington personnel a basis for presenting background material to Congress for funds.

Last year counties were divided into 14 groups by size of workload points, and average workload value per point was determined for each group. This year counties will be divided into 40 groups.

Vermont State Office
April 1968

COUNTY OFFICE ANNUAL WORKLOAD REPORT
(for discussion at State Conference, April 16, 1968)

All counties are required each year, usually during the month of May, to report actual workload information for the past reporting year and estimated information for the next reporting year. The reporting period is May 1 through April 30 each year. This information is used by the Washington office in arriving at county allocations.

The information obtained from the counties doing the workload verification study is used as background information for making allocations to all counties.

Form ASCS-462, County Office Workload Units, is the form used for reporting county office workload units.

Form ASCS-462-1, Estimated Basic Allowance And Employment, is used for estimating basic allowances and employment.

WOOL, FEED GRAIN AND WHEAT

Discussion led by George T. Hart, Fieldman, ASCS
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 16, 1968

There are 3 farms enrolled in the 1968 Wheat Program in Vermont, 2 of them are in Grand Isle and one in Windham County. Nationally 842,132 farms have signed up, and 85.4% of all the wheat acreage in the country is represented on these farms.

There are $1\frac{1}{2}$ million farms signed up in the 1968 Feed Grain Program. There are 76.6 million acres of feed grain bases on these farms, and producers plan to divert 34.3 million acres. There are 442 Vermont farmers enrolled in the 1968 Feed Grain Program which is more than any other in the New England States. The acreage to be diverted from feed grain is 5,057, and total payments will amount to \$222,000 if all enrollees comply with program provisions.

Part 14 of Farm Constitution and Allotment Handbook, 3-PA, covers the requirements for the grazing prohibition and conserving use requirements for the 1968 Feed Grain Program. The provisions of paragraph 177 of 3-PA concern the possibility of reducing diversion payments where less than average land is diverted. Diverted acreage may be grazed after October 1, 1968.

Revision 2 of Handbook 2-CP, Compliance Provisions, will soon be sent to counties and this will govern the compliance activities for the year. There will be farm visits this spring to all participating farms in the Feed Grain Program. Be certain your reporter understands all phases of the program and does a complete job while at the farm. You are reminded that the reporter is concerned with the whole farm, not just the acreage diverted under the program. If the same land is to be diverted and it was measured in a previous year, it is not necessary to remeasure this land. It should be staked and referenced, however. The fall visit to Feed Grain Program farms this year will be on a spot-check basis, and the number of farms to be checked will be decided by the county committee.

The new 156-1 form, "Farm Record Card," is being sent to counties. All information on the current 156's for Wheat and Feed Grain will need to be transferred to the new 156-1 cards. You should hold up completing these cards until instructions on their preparation are received from the State Office.

This year the advance payments for the 1968 Feed Grain Program will be made as usual; however, final payments will be automated. Part 14 of Feed Grain and Wheat Handbook, 25-GR, should be carefully studied and each fieldman will work with county offices individually on this.

Mr. Hart then showed a set of slides concerning the operation of the automated program for making final payments.

COUNTY ELECTIONS

Discussion led by E. E. Gifford, Jr., Fieldman, ASCS
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 16, 1968

My comments will be very brief. Recommendations recently made by county personnel in regard to 1969 election procedures have been forwarded to the Washington Office.

After a short discussion of convention regulations, a show of hands was requested to determine which week in December the group preferred for the county conventions. The group agreed the conventions should be held during the second week in December.

COUNTY INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Discussion led by Richard A. Moore,
Chairman, State ASC Committee
at the State ASCS Conference
South Burlington, Vermont, April 16, 1968

A sheet entitled "Some Suggestions for 1968 County Informational Meetings" was distributed and Mr. Moore pointed out that this list is intended as a starting point in planning these meetings. Counties should use it as a guide to help them in arranging an informational meeting which will be of real benefit to the committeemen in their ASCS work.

Preferably the meetings should be held between May 9 and June 30. Later dates are possible but approval will be subject to the availability of funds.

The deadline for notifying the State Office of county plans is May 9.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR 1968 COUNTY INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS *

A What To Do

1 Soil testing

Jerry McIntosh could bring the committeemen up to date on the recent changes in laboratory procedures and testing and some of the details relative to the prescription writing concept, as well as the new types of fertilizer material handling and mixing.

2 A study of special land use practices at the county level - for example, the practice of improving land use in former pasture areas.

This could be in the form of a discussion of the practice in the forenoon and a visit to farms in the afternoon.

3 A study of the watershed approach to conservation and a visit

This could be in the form of a discussion and a visit to the Jewell Brook area in Windsor County.

4 A study of lime or fertilizer production and distribution by visiting local plants.

5 A review of selected ACP practices in the installation stage, such as obstruction removal, open or tile drainage, spring development or installing pipelines, and timber stand improvement.

6 Making good use of wildlife practices

This could be in the form of a discussion in the morning and a visit to selected farms illustrating the practice in the afternoon. If possible, local Fish and Game Club representatives should be invited to the meeting.

7 Cropland Conversion Program

A visit to Morris LaFrance's farm in Randolph Center to review this program in operation.

8 Recreation developments

A review of recreation developments conducted by Mr. Lindsay or Mr. Bevins of the Extension staff.

(over)

* For discussion at State ASCS Conference, April 16, 1968

B When

Any time after May 9. We would prefer to get the meetings completed by June 30.

We can schedule meetings after July 1 if counties so desire and if administrative funds are available.

C Action Needed

Counties should consider these suggestions or think up other things they would rather do. Discuss the ideas with the county agent, SCS technician and county forester.

Let the State Office know by May 9 what you want to do and when.

OTHER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Conference Banquet

This year, as a change of pace, the toastmaster was a State Committeeman instead of one of the alumni. Richard A. Moore, Chairman, demonstrated once again, in his friendly manner, his ability to keep the program moving easily so that those present had a pleasant evening.

George D. Aiken, Senior Senator from Vermont, was the guest speaker and provided his listeners with a sense of achievement for the work done in the last 30 years, while giving them a challenge to meet the inevitable changes of the future with determination to do a still better job.

Others at the head table were:

Mrs. George D. Aiken

Mrs. Richard A. Moore

Robert Branion, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Mrs. Branion

Keith Wallace, President, Vermont State Farm Bureau

Harry Peters, Director, Northeast Area, ASCS

Robert P. Davison, Director of Extension, and Mrs. Davison

J. Paul Bonneau, State ASC Committeeman, and Mrs. Bonneau

Morris E. LaFrance, State ASC Committeeman, and Mrs. LaFrance

Although disappointed that Governor Hoff's trip to Japan prevented his coming to the banquet, the group were pleased to have Commissioner Branion represent him in bringing greetings from the State Government.

Accordion selections were presented by Miss Cheryl Blanchette, a senior at Essex Junction High School. The audience appreciated the charm of the young musician, her choice of both fast and slow music, and the talent shown in her playing. Many expressed the wish that a longer musical program had been possible and the hope that Miss Blanchette may return at some future conference.

This year the conference was held at a new location, the Holiday Inn in South Burlington, and their staff served a delicious dinner with a choice of baked chicken or filet of sole. This was the largest banquet in the history of our agency, with 135 guests in attendance.

As the evening drew to a close, Mr. Bonneau presented the flowers at the head table to Mrs. Moore in appreciation of her serving as conference hostess.

Alumni

Special tables at the banquet were reserved for State alumni and their wives. Former State Committeemen present this year were:

Mr. & Mrs. Hugh Evans, Brattleboro

Mr. & Mrs. Edson Gifford, Sr., East Bethel

Mr. & Mrs. B. Frank Myott, Enosburg Falls

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Rowley, Milton

Other alumni present were Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Doane, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Peet, and George Dykhuizen. Mr. Doane is a former fieldman and Mrs. Dodge will be remembered as Marcia Tudhope, both of the State Office staff. Mr. Peet is former State Conservationist for the SCS, and Mr. Dykhuizen at one time served as a consultant for USDA.

Visitors from Cooperating Agencies

We were pleased that the following representatives of cooperating agencies could attend sessions of the conference:

John Alcock, U. S. Forest Service, Rutland

Richard Aplin, Marketing Administrator, Mass.-R.I. Milk Marketing Order, Boston

Malcolm Bevins, Extension Economist, UVM, Burlington

Donald Carrigan, Officer in Charge, Consumer Food Programs, C&MS, St. Albans

Thomas Davis, State Director, Office of Economic Opportunity, Montpelier

Robert Douglas, Swanton Lime Works, Inc., Swanton

Dwight Eddy, Extension Economist, UVM, Burlington

A. W. Gottlieb, Director of Forests, Department of Forests and Parks, Montpelier

Gerald Greaves, Jr., Executive Secretary, State Soil Conservation Council, Montpelier

David Grimwood, State Conservationist, SCS, Burlington

Edward Kehoe, Commissioner of Fish and Game, Montpelier

Raymond Lovely, Farm Placement Supervisor, Department of Employment Security, Montpelier

Thomas McCormick, Associate Extension Editor, UVM, Burlington

Patricia McFadden, Extension Information Office, UVM, Burlington

Jerry L. McIntosh, Extension Soil-Plant Relationship Specialist, UVM, Burlington

Theodore Pawlowski, Soil Conservation Service, Burlington

Howard Stark, Vermont Associated Lime Industries, Inc., Winooski

William Stone, Supervisor and Program Leader, Agriculture and Resource Development, Extension Service, UVM, Burlington

Leroy Ware, Vermont Co-op Council, Richmond

John White, Director, Vermont Employment Service Division, Department of Employment Security, Montpelier

S. C. Wiggans, Chairman, Department of Plants and Soil Science, UVM, Burlington

Leonard Wilson, Director of Planning, Central Planning Office, Montpelier

Ladies' Program

On the afternoon of the first day of the conference, Mrs. Heald entertained the ladies at afternoon tea at her home. Mrs. Richard Moore, wife of the State Committee Chairman, served as conference hostess, greeted the ladies on their arrival, and arranged for transportation. She was assisted by Mrs. J. Paul Bonneau and Mrs. Morris E. LaFrance, wives of State Committee members.

Enroute to the Heald home, the ladies visited the new State Office headquarters at 151 South Prospect Street, where they were conducted on a tour of the building.

Thirty Years of Invaluable Service

Almon F. Heald, State Executive Director, was honored at the conference banquet for 30 years of invaluable service with the Department of Agriculture. Harry A. Peters, Northeast Area Director, presented the framed certificate and pin.

Mr. Heald first started work for the Department when he was appointed County Agricultural Agent in Essex County in July of 1937. He joined AAA in 1939 and has been with this agency ever since, serving in increasingly important positions until today he is State Executive Director.

Length-of-Service Awards

Certificates and pins recognizing the years of service rendered were presented to the following personnel:

County Committeemen

20 years	Norman Lowe, Caledonia County Chester Caswell, Grand Isle County
15 years	Roy Burroughs, Rutland County
10 years	Roland Gervais, Franklin County (unable to be present due to a conflict) George Livak, Rutland County

County Office Managers

20 years	Avis Maynard, Franklin County Mae Carpenter, Windham County
10 years	Cecelia Grover, Windsor County

State Office

25 years	George T. Hart, Fieldman
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Suggestion Award

In a surprise announcement Mr. Heald presented Miss Frances G. Hutchison with a Certificate of Appreciation and a cash award of \$157.50 for a suggestion which she had made some time ago and which had been adopted by the agency.

County Office Manager to Retire

It was announced that Miss Hazel Hoyt will retire at the end of July after serving a little over 31 years as Lamoille County Office Manager. Miss Hoyt began work when the program started in Vermont.

The State Executive Director presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation for her many years of service to the organization and to the farmers of Lamoille County and with a gift from the State Committee and State Office staff. Miss Hoyt also received a purse from her co-workers in the Vermont Association of ASCS County Office Employees.

Exhibits

In the room where the general sessions of the conference were held many charts and pictures of ASCS projects and personnel were on display. One brought in by Chairman Moore graphically demonstrated the many values of a wildlife pond.

The group is indebted to Vern Tuxbury, Extension Rural Defense Information Specialist, for the Civil Defense exhibit which he set up. This proved to be especially interesting to the conferees.

Publicity

Throughout the conference photographers and local newsmen were present and the Burlington Free Press carried several articles and pictures on conference activities, both before and after the conference.

A representative of the local TV station attended some of the sessions and the pictures which he took were later used as a part of the day's local news presented on Station WCAX-TV.

We are indebted to Tom McCormick, Associate Extension Editor, Patricia McFadden of his staff, and William Carnahan, ASCS Northeast Area Information Specialist, for their excellent work in obtaining this coverage for us.

Telegrams

Conferees were honored by telegrams sent to Chairman Moore.

From Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey - A message congratulating the ASCS organization in Vermont for the job they are doing in administering farm programs which are so important to the National economy. Vice President Humphrey extended his personal regards and best wishes to all.

From ASCS Administrator Horace D. Godfrey - A message reading: "I regret that my schedule prevents me from being with you at your annual State Conference of committeemen and employees.

"As you meet, and as you discuss problems and goals, it is important to remember that the work we in ASCS are engaged in is vital to the future of American Agriculture. I congratulate the State Committee and all of your associates for the manner in which you have administered farm programs in the past.

"I am sure that by working together we can look for a brighter future for farm people.

"Please convey my regrets to all attending the conference and my best wishes for a successful meeting."

